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To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

IF you think the enclosed cases deserving of a place in your useful Medical Journal, you will do me the favour of inserting them. If there are any questions you wish to ask concerning them, I shall be very happy to give you any information in my power. I am,

GENTLEMEN,

Your most obedient servant,

H. H. HELSHAM, M. D.

Stoke Ferry, Norfolk,
Nov. 6, 1800.

CASES of DYSPHAGIA.

[With Engravings.]

CASE I.

An account of the dissection of a woman, aged 65 years, who had been subject, for five years preceding her death, to a sickness and reaching, and a sensation of pain in swallowing in the track of the spine and œsophagus; in a letter to Dr. HAMILTON, *of Lynn.*

DEAR SIR, *Stoke, April 1, 1792.*

Our patient, Mrs. Godman, lingered out till Thursday last. For the last fortnight, I dare say, she scarce swallowed any thing; and, for about that time, the spitting and expectoration of mucus had stopped. She was incapable of speaking for the last four or five days, but retained her senses to the last moment, though her pulse had not been perceptible for two days.

We obtained leave to open the body, which my son did yesterday.

Upon laying open the cavity of the abdomen, and feeling in the situation of the stomach, we were struck with the appearance of some protuberant swelling behind it; but as we wished first to make a careful examination of the track of the œsophagus, he proceeded to the examination of the thorax and neck,

and diſſected the œſophagus and ſtomach carefully out from their ſituation; previous to which a probang was paſſed down into the ſtomach, which met with no impediment whatever.

When the ſtomach and œſophagus were diſſected out, he laid them open, and not the leaſt veſtige of diſeaſe, neither ſtricture, ſchirrus, ulceration, or even abraſion of the internal coat, appeared in either.

We now ſought for the enlargement which occaſioned the particular feel behind the ſtomach and viſcera.

This was no other than the ſpine itſelf, which formed a ridge from the neck to the laſt vertebræ of the back, and had more the feel of the ſpinal proceſſes of the back than the bodies of the vertebræ. Inſtead of the uſual form of the bodies of the vertebræ, as thus the following was the form of them:

and the depth of the cavity, from the middle of the bodies of the vertebræ to the poſterior arch of the ribs, was at leaſt five inches.

The protuberance was greateſt about the ſeventh vertebræ of the back, where the œſophagus paſſes through the diaphragm.

The liver and all the viſcera appeared ſound, the omentum was very thick and large, but did not appear ſchirrous.

There were two biliary concretions in the gall bladder the ſize of a large nutmeg each.

How far will this particular form of the ſpine account for the ſymptoms ſhe had been ſubject to for five years?

CASE II.

R. C. Eſq. aged 79, had been affected for twenty years paſt with Dyſphagia, which was ſuppoſed to have been firſt occaſioned by his eating a morſel of hot pudding, which, by excoriating the inſide of the œſophagus, might have given riſe to ſtricture, or fungus excreſcence in the part.

For the laſt two or three years of his life I had frequent opportunities of being at table with him, and from the obſervation I then made on his manner of ſwallowing, and what I ſaw during the week preceding his death, I could by no means think that either ſtricture or fungus ſufficiently accounted for it.

Excluſive of the difficulty of ſwallowing, in the firſt inſtance, he would ſome time afterwards (perhaps ten or fifteen minutes) regurgitate part of his food or drink back again, which ſeemed to have lodged ſomewhere in the paſſage.

Excepting

Excepting the difficulty of ſwallowing, he had enjoyed a very good ſtate of health, was of a fair, florid complexion, and rather inclining to corpulency.

In January, 1792, the difficulty of ſwallowing increaſed to ſuch a degree, as almoſt totally to prevent any nouriſhment being received into the ſtomach; and, for the laſt ten days of his life, he was ſupported by broth clyſters, and at length gradually ſunk from inanition.

During the laſt week of his life he would frequently, to appearance, ſwallow more than four ounces of liquid at a draught, which would remain ſometimes for five or ten minutes, and then be regurgitated back again.

Permiſſion being obtained to open the body; after removing the larynx, pharynx, trachea, and œſophagus, an enlargement or protuberance of the body of the fifth vertebra of the neck, which projected above half an inch over the body of the ſixth vertebra, appeared to be the original cauſe of the complaint, by producing the ſtricture in the œſophagus. This bony projection did not ſhow any mark of diſeaſe further than its enlargement.

The effort of ſwallowing had gradually produced a dilatation of the pharynx behind the œſophagus, and underneath the projecting body of the vertebræ, forming a ſac which would contain about four or five ounces, into which part of the food or drink eſcaped, and remained for ſome time, till by its irritation it produced an effort to reject it.

The annexed figures ſhew the parts after they had been prepared, and immerged in ſpirits.

Figure I. A back View of the Preparation.

A. The trachea.
B. The œſophagus.
C. The epiglottis.
D. The back part of the pharynx, cut open to ſhew
E. The ſtricture oppoſite to the protuberance of the vertebra.
F. The ſac, or bag, formed behind the œſophagus.

Figure II. A View of the Preparation on the left ſide.

A. The trachea.
B. The œſophagus.
C. The epiglottis.
D. The thyroid cartillage.
E. The cricoid cartilage.
F. The os hyoides.
G. The ſac, or bag, hanging down behind the œſophagus.

CASES of ISCHURIA.

CASE I.

E. S. a corpulent man, aged 67 years, had been ſubject for ſome years to frequent and ſevere attacks of the gout, and nephritic complaints, and had, at different times, voided ſeveral calculi,

calculi, was taken, on Tuesday, July the 22d, with suppression of urine.

I was called to him first on Wednesday the 23d, when he had made only one spoonful of urine since yesterday; I ordered him a bolus with opii gr. j. calomel. ppt. camphor aa. gr. v. to be taken immediately, and to be repeated at bed-time; and a mixture with oleum ricini to be taken in the morning.

He had no pain, no inclination to void urine, no fulness or tension in the bladder, nor any tenderness upon pressure on the hypogastrium, but complained of a heavy dull sensation in his loins; no thirst or fever; pulse 67, and regular.

Thursday, 24th. No stools; no urine. Rept. mistura aper.

Friday, 25th. Has had stools, but passed no urine. Applicetur emplast. vesicatorium regioni renum. Rep. bolus h. s.

Saturday, 26th. Capt. cochlear iij. julep; cum spt. nitros. æther ʒ ia. vel 4 ta. quaq. hora. Rept. bolus h. s. Cras mane rept. mistura aper.

Sunday, 27th. He was electrified by passing sparks through the region of the kidnies with the large balls of Nairne's patent electrical machine, for some minutes, and afterwards passing three small shocks through the loins. Rept. bolus h. s. Cras mane rept. mistura aper.

Monday, 28th. Electricity repeated. He expresses himself to have received a comfortable sensation from it, as if a weight was removed from his loins. He vomits frequently a green acrid fluid. Rept. bolus h. s.

Tuesday, 29th. The catheter was introduced; no water in the bladder. Electrified again, and vomited immediately after. Bowels regular.

Wednesday, 30th. Two small blisters were again applied to the region of the kidnies. Rept. bolus h. s.

Thursday, 31st. Would not be electrified any more, as it made him vomit. He is very lethargic; pulse 57. Rept. bolus h. s.

Friday, August 1st. Was put into a warm bath for a quarter of an hour. Bowels regular.

Saturday, 2d. Continues the same, except that his lethargic symptoms increase; falls asleep while conversing in an erect posture. Pulse low and languid.

Sunday, 3d. About noon he passed four ounces of urine perfectly clear, after a total suppression for thirteen days, and afterwards passed a stone, the size and form of a small kidney bean, without the least pain or knowledge of it, till he heard it fall into the chamber-pot.

Monday, 4th. Has voided urine plentifully, of a good colour, without the least pain or inconvenience. Has vomited once

once this morning, and is rather languid; bowels regular. Rept. bolus f. h. cum calomel. gr. iij.

Tuefday, 5th. Has paffed fome more fmall ftones; vomited this morning.

From this time he continued to void his urine regularly; and on Saturday, the 9th, paffed a ftone larger than the firft. From that time he has advanced in his recovery, and is now, November 4, perfectly well.

CASE. II.

Friday, Sept. 26, 1800, my fon was called to Tho. Wells, of Fouldon, an old man of 70 years of age, who had had a total fuppreffion of urine from the Sunday preceding.

On examining the abdomen, the bladder was found diftended up to the navel; and, on attempting to pafs the catheter, he could not get it further than the membraneous part of the urethra, where it was plainly felt by the finger introduced into the rectum.

The bladder was pufhed down into the rectum, and behind its own neck, like the retroverted uterus, and was very plainly the obftacle to the introduction of the catheter.

He was bled, and took a bolus with opii gr. j. calomel camphor aa. gr. iij. at five o'clock, and again at bed-time; and had an opening mixture, with oleum ricini, to begin in the morning.

Saturday, the 27th, our friend, Mr. Roberts, of Swaffham, met us, and all our endeavours to pafs the catheter proving fruitlefs, my fon perforated the bladder through the rectum.

As the common trocar would not reach the bladder, he made ufe of Pott's trocar needle and canula, for paffing the feton in the radical operation for the hydrocele.

The catheter being introduced into the urethra as far as it would pafs, he guided the inftrument upon his finger in the rectum, to the protruding bladder, and plunged it into it.

On withdrawing the needle, three pints of urine paffed through the canula, when it ftopped; but trying to pufh forward the catheter, it immediately paffed into the bladder, and three pints more of urine flowed through the catheter.

Sunday, the 28th. He had paffed full two quarts of urine by the urethra, which was tinctured with blood; but none had paffed through the rectum, nor did any afterwards pafs that way.

Monday, the 29th. He had a free paffage through his bowels, and continued for fome days to make a large quantity of urine.

The wound in the rectum and bladder healed by the firft intention, and he gradually recovered, and continues to this time, November 4th, perfectly well.

On the medicinal Efficacy of Sulphuric Acid.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

Gentlemen,

Chronic eruptions on the cuticular ſurface are well known to form a frequent, and occaſionally a very diſtreſſing malady; they alſo aſſume various appearances, preſent different degrees of inveteracy, and often prove irremediable under the moſt approved mode of treatment. This practical difficulty has rendered me invariably puſillanimous in my opinion of the iſſue of thoſe complaints; and experience of the inſufficiency of the uſual practice, has obliged me ſucceſſively to combat the diſorder with different agents, before even an apparent cure could be effected, which, in the majority of inſtances, has been ultimately evinced to have been a temporary ſuſpenſion only, and not a real extinction of the diſeaſe. The warm bath, the internal and external uſe of a ſolution of the corroſive muriat of mercury, antimonials, guaiacum, &c. have, ſeparately and conjointly, failed in producing the deſired effect. Nor has the nitrous acid, under my direction, juſtified the reputation given to it, or in any inſtance proved permanently ſalutary. The chemical explanation which has been recently given to the medicinal efficacy of various oxydated and oxygenated preparations, particularly the oxides of quickſilver, by aſcribing the agency exerted to the oxygene in combination; and alſo the popular eſteem in which ſulphur is held againſt eruptive diſorders, induced me to give an extenſive trial to Sulphuric Acid, as probably poſſeſſing, in concentrated combination, the ſeparate powers of its conſtituent principles. It is with heart-felt ſatisfaction that I have now to detail how far my expectations have been realiſed.

1. A child, about three years of age, had been upwards of twelve months affected with eruptions, which originated on the face, and were ſoon ſpread over the cuticular ſurface, rather in partial cluſters than in equal diſtribution. This eruption had its ſtages of riſe, progreſs, and declenſion: It began with an inflammatory aſpect, accompanied with preternatural heat and itching, and terminated in a furfuraceous diſquamation. This courſe was uſually completed in about a fortnight, and reſumed at ſhort but irregular intervals. Various medicines had been exhibited, but what they were could not be diſtinctly learned; no laſting relief, however, had reſulted from them.

them. This patient was directed to take ten drops of the sulphuric acid in a tea-cup full of pure water three times a day, and to have the eruptions washed as often with a solution of the same acid in water, in the proportion of one drachm of the former to one pint of the latter. This was performed by dipping a small piece of linen in the liquid, and moistening with it the parts affected. The external application was at first productive of severe pain, but this inconvenience daily diminished. The drops rested well on the stomach; in the course of a week much amendment was apparent, the eruptions were much subsided, and felt and appeared hard and scurfy, but the intermediate sound skin continued highly reddened. The curative progress advanced uninterruptedly, and in three weeks from the commencement of the treatment, the little patient was comparatively well; the blotched relicks also soon became considerably effaced; and at this time, now upwards of four months, the child remains perfectly free from complaint.

No other medicine was administered during the employ of this remedy; indeed, the general health was speedily raised from a very languid and irritable state to a more robust and tranquil condition. The appetite became craving; the several evacuations were regular; and that by cuticular perspiration was sensibly increased. To this latter circumstance may be attributed the little inconvenience induced by the inflammatory redness excited on the skin by the lotion; the increased evaporation of perspirable matter transferred redundant heat, and salutarily refrigerated the preternatural temperature.

2. A man of a robust temperament, aged about 30 years, by trade a shoe-maker, had been for six months grievously afflicted with an excoriation of almost the entire cuticle of both legs. In some parts, small, destructive ulcerations had reached the muscular structure, and a morbidly decomposing process appeared to be spreading in every direction over the affected limbs, yielding a vast discharge of thin fœtid fluid. This complaint was formally limited to the lower extremities, but a sympathetic itching was propagated over the whole cuticular surface. The general health had not been sensibly affected. Thirty drops of sulphuric acid were directed for this patient, to be taken in half a pint of cold water, gradually extending the dose to one tea-spoonful, if not contra-indicated by any forbidding occurrence, such as nausea or purgation. A sulphuric acid lotion, of the strength before-mentioned, was also ordered to be applied by means of a bandage, wetted in the liquid, and rolled tightly, by equal and progressive rounds, from the feet to the knees. The drops produced no inconvenience; the lotion induced exquisite pain; but this appeared to be the effect

of

of an impreſſion that had promptly deſtroyed the diſeaſed action; a high degree of inflammatory redneſs and tenſion enſued, but which was readily controlable by the application of cold water. A purely aqueous fluid, (coloured for the ſake of diſguiſe) was now ſubſtituted, in which the bandages formerly wetted in the ſulphuric acid lotion, were ordered to be moiſtened, and applied in a ſimilar manner, renewing them as ſoon as either dry, or a ſenſe of diſeaſed heat recurred.

This procedure diſſipated the tenſion, pain, and redneſs within two days, and its continued uſe, conjoined with the gradually augmented doſes of the acid, during about ten days, nearly effected a cure. A dry ſcurf on the legs exhibited the only remaining veſtige of this inveterate diſeaſe.

The ſmall ulcerations, as before remarked, on different parts of the legs ſpeedily changed their ill conditioned aſpect, and healed with rapidity.

The ſulphuric acid was in this caſe taken to the extent of two tea-ſpoons full three times a day, conjoined with a ſmall proportion of opium, to obviate a purgative effect which it had previouſly produced. It is worthy of notice, that at one period this patient was highly ſalivated by the acid, the pulſe alſo was quickened ſimilarly to what uſually occurs under the higheſt ſyſtematic operation of mercury. This effect, however, ſubſided much more ſpeedily on ſuſpending the acid, than ordinarily happens when reſulting from mercury. Three days diſcontinuance of its uſe was followed by an entire ceſſation of the ptyaliſm. The relief obtained in this caſe was a complete removal of morbid action, that had advanced to an ulcerative proceſs, and which appeared to be moſt virulently circumſtanced. It had reſiſted the ordinary attempts of regular, and the extraordinary endeavour of irregular practice.

Two months are now elapſed ſince the commencement of this treatment; the affected parts continue perfectly well, with the exception of occaſional itching and a ſenſe of morbid heat, which have at length been nearly ſubdued by plunging the legs, every morning and evening, in cold water as high as the knees, keeping them in that ſituation about one minute, and then rolling them as before-mentioned with a bandage ſqueezed from cold water.

This ſudden and conſtant mode of reducing the diſeaſed heat, promiſes ultimately to correct the vitiated proceſſes on which its generation depends, and to re-eſtabliſh the ſalutary temperature.

3. A ſtout yeoman, aged about 25, requeſted my advice for an obſtinate eruption on his right arm, which had exiſted about two months. Its origin was confined to a few confluent puſtules,

tules, which ſpeedily ſpread, by contiguous extenſion, over the whole upper ſurface of the arm. At the time of his firſt application, this puſtular affection had a very loathſome and inveterate aſpect; its general ſuperficies was much above the level of the cuticular ſurface, and its centre was elevated into a ſuppurative protuberance, from whence oozed, as from other parts of it, a thin ſanguineous ſanies, not ſtrikingly offenſive.

In this caſe the ſulphuric acid was employed both internally and externally, as before ſpecified, with the difference only of reducing the quantity of the acid in the lotion to the proportion of half a drachm to one pint of water. This alteration was a meaſure of precaution, taught both by the pain induced in the former caſe, and the highly diſeaſed temperature prevailing on the whole arm. No ſort of inconvenience aroſe either from the internal or external uſe of the acid thus managed, and within three weeks the patient was diſmiſſed perfectly cured. Complete diſquamation of the unſightly groupe of puſtules had occurred, and the ſubjacent cuticle was ſmooth, ſoft, and flexile.

4. A young woman, under the preſſure of much conſtitutional debility and morbidly high temperature, had been nearly eighteen months incommoded by large diſtinct eruptions on different parts of the body, appearing and diſappearing at irregular intervals; a large puſtule on one of the legs at length ulcerated, and ſpread by rapid decompoſition of the contiguous parts to great extent and conſiderable depth; the attendant irritation was extremely acute, and marked by a high degree of ſurrounding tenſion, inflammation, and even veſication; the ſenſe of heat was, to uſe the patient's term, ſo intenſely burning, as to leave no doubt of exceſſive temperature conſtituting the chief ſource of the diſtreſs. Conformably to this opinion, I directed it to be reduced, by enveloping the limb in a cloth wetted with cold water, and renewed every half hour. The advice was ſedulouſly purſued, and the alleviation in the courſe of the ſame day was incredibly great and durable; the ſenſe of burning was exchanged for grateful warmth. On the ſubſequent day, the altered aſpect of the limb ſtrikingly evinced the ſalutary reduction of heat which had been effected, but the ulcerated ſurface continued of a dark mottled hue. The ſore was now directed to be dreſſed every morning and evening (after waſhing it with cold water) with an ointment compoſed of half a drachm of ſulphuric acid and one ounce of hog's lard, and the leg to be afterwards bound from the foot to the knee with a ſuitable bandage dipped in cold water. The ſulphuric acid was alſo taken by progreſſive augmentation, as in the former caſes, and to an equal extent, but without any affection of the ſalivary glands enſuing from it.

The ſalutary effects of the treatment in the patient under conſideration, even exceeded any thing that ever occurred to me to obſerve from the moſt efficacious remedies. Within three weeks this highly diſtempered young woman was unfettered from her noiſome malady, walked to my houſe, (a diſtance of three miles) without halting, fatigue, or an eruption, and with no other trace of her former corroding ulcer, than a ſuperficial cicatrizing ſore, of very inconſiderable dimenſion, and which I have ſince learned is now perfectly healed.

Among ſeveral other inſtances of ſubordinate importance, I may relate two others, which have as unequivocally, in my eſtimation, eſtabliſhed the ſuperior efficacy of the ſulphuric acid, in the cure of cuticular eruptions, as either of thoſe which have been recited; but a more extenſive narrative would occupy more of your time and room than can be reaſonably preſumed on. If what has been advanced in favour of the particular curative powers of this remedy ſhould be deemed ſufficient to entitle it to a full inveſtigation of its poſſible efficiency, my object in ſubmitting to public conſideration the ſucceſs of my experience will be amply accompliſhed. It may, however, be proper to add, that the ſalutary influence of the treatment deſcribed has been ſo uniformly apparent in all the caſes in which it has been employed under my direction, that it remains for me yet to learn an exception to its efficacy. It may be obſerved, that in the management of the preceding caſes, the prevailing temperature, as indicated by the *patient's ſenſations*,* was a leading object of attention. This regard proceeded from an opinion which has been long indulged by me, that all eruptive diſorders and ulcerative proceſſes, in common with every variety of febrile affection, are eſſentially connected with motions of the animal principles of life, that generate exceſſive heat, which in its turn produces morbid actions and ſenſations. Conſonant to this doctrine, I have attempted the cure of eruptive complaints by the external application of cold water and the refrigerating influence of increaſed perſpiration, and in ſome inſtances effects highly beneficial have by this mode been produced; but on moſt occaſions the *habit* of morbid action has not vaniſhed with the reduction of the diſeaſed temperature: hence an agent appeared to me to be wanting, that by affecting the exiſting

* The feelings of the patient, with reſpect to temperature, have ſerved me as a much more accurate guide than the indications afforded by thermometrical menſuration. This ſeeming preference, however, may not be well founded, but be aſcribable to my thermometer not poſſeſſing ſufficient mobility to exhibit, with ſuitable preciſion, the diverſified range of the prevailing heat.

exiſting affinities which hold the principles of animal ſtructure in vital combination, a ſalutary change might be induced from thoſe morbid conditions of motive power, that at once conſtituted and actuated the prevailing diſeaſe.

The ſulphuric acid has hitherto proved, in my experience, fully competent to this effect; but whether its efficacy be due to the ſpecific chemical virtue of its oxygenous principle, its conſtituent combination, or to its more general ſtimulant properties, is exceedingly problematical.

No ſufficient documents have yet been furniſhed, either experimentally, inductively, or analogically, on which might be ſatisfactorily reſted an explanation, either how medicinal impreſſions are made, or how the power imparted is incorporated and appropriated. The recondite operation of the animal œconomy, in converting and aſſimilating matter, and thereby generating ſpecific power and efficiency, is yet but dimly perceived by *Chemical Phyſiology*, which, unqueſtionably, conſtitutes the only legitimate mode of reſearch. Extenſion of facts promiſes progreſſively to illuſtrate the view, and ultimately to unveil the latent ſimplicity of native truth. I am,

GENTLEMEN,

Yours, very reſpectfully,

Chilton ſuper Polden,
N[illegible], 1800.

ROBERT KINGLAKE.

P. S. In your laſt Number is a Comment on a former Paper of mine, relative to Parturition and the Delivery of the Placenta,* by a Mr. S. THOMAS. I muſt be very brief in anſwer to an opponent, who appears to have attacked my opinion without examining or regarding the grounds on which it reſts. He has ſummarily replied by ſuſpecting my *practical familiarity* with natural labour, though the doctrine advanced in the paper in queſtion, is diſtinctly ſtated to have been ſuggeſted by *ample experience.*

It muſt, on reflection, occur to your correſpondent, that ſuch unqualified diſtruſt is a breach of decorum, equally incompatible with ſocial urbanity and philoſophical argument. I will only trouble you to make known to Mr. S. Thomas, that my opportunities for practical information have been ſufficiently extenſive and diverſified, to warrant me in exerciſing an independent judgment on the ſubject of parturition; that I might alſo boaſt of having duly profited by the tuition of the preceptors whom he has cited; that, were it neceſſary, innumerable examples might be adduced of *ſpontaneous parturition*, without a ſingle

* See Medical and Phyſical Journal, No. XVIII. p. 156.

a ſingle inſtance of *perineal laceration*; and, finally, that my wiſh is not, as Mr. S. Thomas gratuitouſly ſuppoſes, to abandon the practice of midwifery to uninformed females; but to vindicate obſtetric philoſophy from the imputation of recommending the *uniform necessity* of manual aſſiſtance, and to reſtrict its ſcientific authority for artificial aid to the comparatively rare accidents of unnatural preſentation and other extraordinary occurrences.

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

HAVING been informed that in an inoculation of the poor of a pariſh in the neighbourhood of town for the Vaccine Diſeaſe, ſymptoms had occurred very much unlike thoſe we have ever ſeen or heard of in the Cow-pox, and that one of them had actually died under the diſeaſe, we have been induced to viſit them; and we now feel it incumbent on us, as a duty to the public, and in juſtice to Dr. Jenner, to make the following ſtatement, as the reſult of our enquiries.

The poor had been divided into four diſtricts, to be inoculated by four different medical gentlemen reſident in that pariſh. The patients of three of theſe gentlemen had the Cow-pox in the regular manner, without one unfavorable ſymptom.

In the remaining diſtrict it was obſerved, that of fifteen perſons inoculated on the 22d of October, only ſix took the infection.

There is every reaſon to think that this firſt inoculation cauſed no appearances in any degree deviating from the uſual progreſs of the Cow-pox.

The remaining nine were inoculated again on the 31ſt of October.

The gentleman who performed this inoculation candidly acknowledges, that the matter with which he had charged the lancet for this purpoſe had been taken at a very late period of the diſeaſe, after a brown ſcab had formed, and had a purulent appearance at the time it was taken from the arm, conſequently had, by degenerating, loſt the power of giving the Cow-pox infection, and appears to have been the cauſe of all the miſchief that enſued.

It is proper however to remark, that the matter thus taken was not alone truſted to in the dry ſtate, but that, in order to enſure

ensure success, fresh Cow-pox *fluid* was also taken upon the same lancet from the arms of different children before inoculated.

The symptoms produced by this inoculation were extensive erysipelas, spreading rapidly from the part inoculated, accompanied in many instances by considerable constitutional affection, followed in most by an immediate ulcerative process, and in some even a tendency to gangrene.

In confirmation of the opinion, that an infection was thus propagated, distinct from that of the Cow-pox, we are also under the necessity of stating, that in two of the patients who are believed to have had the Cow-pox distinctly by the former inoculation, the same symptoms were unfortunately induced, in attempting to procure Cow-pox *fluid* from them with the same lancet.

We have, however, the satisfaction of adding, though several remain indisposed, that all are in a fair way of recovery.

WILLIAM H. WOLLASTON, M. D.
JOHN PEARSON,
JOHN GRIFFITHS,
London, Nov. 20, 1800. RICHARD CROFT.

P. S. For the information of the public, and as a caution to those who may need to be reminded of the injunctions already given by Dr. Jenner, it is thought advisable to repeat, as concisely as may be, the directions which may be collected from his various publications on this subject.

1. The Cow-pox *fluid* should be taken not later than the ninth day of the disease.

2. The *fluid* should be perfectly transparent, as it is not to be depended upon if it has become in any degree opaque.

3. The *fluid*, if not used immediately, should be allowed to dry gradually and thoroughly before it is laid by for future use.

4. The punctures can scarcely be made too superficial, and on no account should more than one be made in each arm.

5. Attention should be paid to repress, as soon as may be, any excess of inflammation that may happen to arise.

*** During a conversation with a professional gentleman of the first rank and eminence in the metropolis, on the subject of the decomposition of the Vaccine fluid, I was informed, that many years ago he inoculated a child with Variolous matter so very far advanced, that he took it from under a scab. It produced a very violent erysipelatous inflammation on the arm, which gradually extended almost over the whole body. The general indisposition thus excited was severe, the arm ulcerated, and the disease terminated in an anasarcous swelling of the left leg and thigh, and lasted six months. It yielded at length to sea-bathing, when the child was again inoculated with

perfect

perfect variolous matter, which produced the ſmall-pox as completely as if the conſtitution had not felt the influence of the imperfect.

Is the general maſs of the human fluids, or thoſe of quadrupeds, capable of undergoing changes ſpontaneouſly, which can produce theſe effects? Or, do they depend upon their degeneracy from matter once poſſeſſing ſpecific properties? Wounds of the ſkin inflicted during diſſection, I believe, ſometimes produce effects not very diſſimilar from thoſe above recited. EDIT.

[*See Dr. Lettsom's Leter on the same subject, p.* 567.]

MONTHLY REPORT of DISEASES,

Admitted under the Care of the PHYSICIANS of the FINSBURY DISPENSARY, St. John's Square, Clerkenwell.

From October 20 to November 20, 1800.

Continued Fever - - -	58	Gaſtrodynia and Enterodynia	6
Intermittent Fever - -	1	Menorrhagia - - - -	2
Pneumonia - - - - - -	8	Chloroſis and Amenorrhœa	9
Hæmoptyſis - - - - -	2	Hyſteria - - - - - -	2
Phthiſis Pulmonalis - -	8	Epilepſy - - - - - -	3
Catarrh - - - - - -	16	Dropſy - - - - - - -	5
Cough and Dyſpnœa -	48	Aſthenia - - - - - -	15
Rheumatiſm - - - - -	21	Palſy - - - - - - -	2
Cynanche Parotidea - -	1	Cephalæa - - - - - -	6
Eryſipelas - - - - - -	1	Gout - - - - - - - -	1
Peritonitis - - - - - -	2	Aneuriſmus Aortæ - -	2
Nephritis - - - - - -	1	Hæmorrhois - - - - -	3
Diarrhœa - - - - - -	3	Colica Pictonum - - -	1
Dyſentery - - - - - -	3	Scorbutus - - - - - -	1
Hypochondriaſis - - -	2	Chronic Cutaneous Diſeaſes	9
Dyſpepſia - - - - - -	5	Diſeaſes of Infants - -	16

The autumnal epidemics have retired with the ſeaſon, and the winter has been uſhered in by its uſual train of attendant diſeaſes. Thoſe of the lungs, comprized under the terms pneumonia, catarrh, phthiſis, cough and dyſpnœa, hæmoptyſis, &c. have become univerſal ſince our laſt report; and from their importance and the aggravated ſtate of their ſymptoms, now occupy a principal ſhare of medical attention. Theſe complaints, from the peculiar character of the climate, are remarkably common in this iſland; and from the circumſtances of a large and populous city, prevail among the inhabitants of London in a much greater proportion than among thoſe of the country. The reſpiration of more than a million of inhabitants, and of the horſes and other animals ſubſervient to their uſe, within ſo confined a ſpace, conſtantly exhauſts a conſiderable portion of the vital or oxygenous part of the atmoſphere, and imparts to it, at the ſame time, an almoſt equal quantity of a gaſeous

gaſeous fluid, poſitively deleterious to animal life. The continual burning of fuel, on a prodigious ſcale, not only contributes to the ſame effect, but furniſhes an immenſe maſs of ſmoke and ſooty particles, enveloping the city and its environs to a conſiderable extent. The air is rendered further impure by the effluvia from common ſewers, and repoſitaries of filth and excremental matters; from ſtables, ſlaughter-houſes, many ſorts of offenſive manufactories, the refuſe of markets, proviſion-ſhops, &c. A quantity of duſt is likewiſe put in motion, and diffuſed abroad, by the continual ſtirring of the inhabitants, and by the operations of trade, and of domeſtic cleanlineſs. The air thus deprived, in ſome degree, of its ſalutary property, and impregnated with noxious ſubſtances both chemical and mechanical, is generally, at this period of the year, loaded alſo with a thick and ſluggiſh fog. When the agent immediately ſubſervient to the function of reſpiration is ſo contaminated, it is not wonderful that the function itſelf ſhould, in conſequence, be impeded and deranged. Hence an habitual cough is remarkably frequent among the inhabitants of London, laying a foundation in ſome for the phthiſis pulmonalis, and degenerating in others to a conſtant ſtate of dyſpnœa, with increaſed ſecretion from the bronchial veſſels. This morbid condition of the lungs becomes aggravated throughout the winter ſeaſon; and on the ſpecial application of cold, or other exciting cauſes, is, according to the age, conſtitution, &c. of the patient, often converted into one or other of the ſpecies of pneumonia, but principally into that which has been denominated peripneumonia notha. For the ſame reaſon alſo, acute pulmonary diſeaſes are much retarded in their cure, or are protracted to a chronic ſtate.

The continued fever ſteadily preſerves its dominion, and with nearly the ſame character as during the two preceding months; lately, indeed, it has in ſeveral perſons been accompanied with an inflammation and ſlight ulceration of the throat. This circumſtance was obſerved in the fever of the laſt year, about the ſame period. It is uſually connected with the prevalence of idiopathic anginas; but of theſe there has lately occurred no inſtance within our notice, if we except the caſe of cynanche parotidea.

Although the origin of fever among the poor, may, in general, be eaſily and diſtinctly traced, yet on ſome occaſions its ſource is by no means obvious. Three children, from the age of 6 to 12 years, belonging to a mechanic whoſe apartments were remarkably clean, and in an airy ſituation, were attacked in the afternoon of the *ſame* day by the cold paroxyſm of fever, which was ſoon ſucceeded by a permanent ſtate of heat, quickneſs of pulſe, and other uſual ſymptoms. In two, the diſeaſe terminated favourably in little more than a week; but in the third, it ended fatally about the twenty-firſt day. The parents being minutely queſtioned as to the circumſtances to which theſe patients had been expoſed previouſly to the attack of fever, were perfectly ſure that they had not been near any perſon ill of the diſeaſe; but mentioned that they ſometimes uſed to play and wander in a neighbouring church-yard, (St.

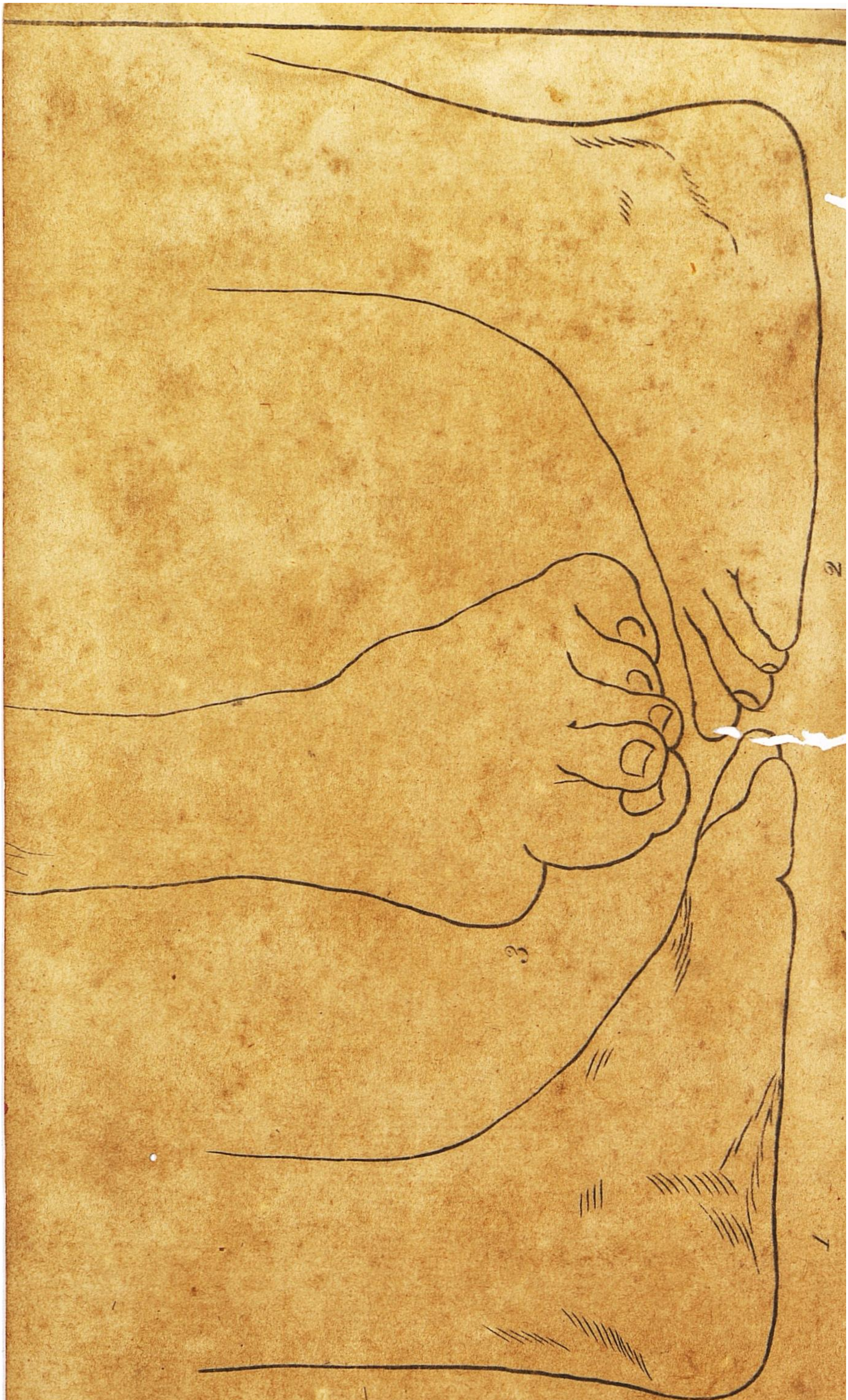
Luke's)

Luke's) and that their curioſity often excited them to hover over, and look into the graves, at the time of, and immediately after, the ceremony of interring the dead, of whom a great number lately buried in that cemetery, have been the victims of contagious fever.

Of the diſeaſes of infants, that which moſt frequently engages our notice, and baffles our efforts for its removal, is the atrophia. The prediſpoſition to this morbid ſtate, conſiſts in the weak, ſcrophulous, and degenerated ſtamina imparted to them by their parents; its exciting cauſes are a confined and corrupted air, the want of proper nurſing, unfit and deficient nutriment, and perhaps, but too frequently, the unnatural and premature adminiſtration of ardent ſpirits. An infant after thriving tolerably well for ſome time, perhaps begins to waſte; the abdomen gradually grows hard and tumid; the fleſh, as it diminiſhes in quantity, becomes ſoft; and the ſkin dry, looſe, and flaccid; the features ſhrink, and look pale and ſqualid. The alvine diſcharges are ſometimes too ſlow, ſometimes too frequent, and ſeldom natural in odour or appearance: the infant is extremely reſtleſs and fretful, and has a burning hectic fever, eſpecially in the night; a harraſſing cough often attends, with much oppreſſion of the breathing; the appetite is, for the moſt part, keen to the laſt. The immediate cauſe of this diſeaſe, is generally an enlargement of the meſenteric glands, and of other parts within the abdomen; ſometimes alſo there is a tubercular ſtate of the lungs. In the earlier period of this malady, ſome little good may be derived from medicinal means, particularly from the judicious uſe of calomel, rhubarb, &c. but unleſs pure air, and proper management at home, co-operate with our endeavours, it is but too common that they prove ultimately ineffectual.

If the late general deficiency of the eſſential articles of nouriſhment has rendered the office of a phyſician, who is employed to a great extent amongſt the lower claſſes of the community, not only unſpeakably painful to himſelf, but in too large a proportion of caſes almoſt entirely unprofitable to his patients, how uſeleſs is it to adminiſter phyſic to perſons who are wanting food! Medicine is but a poor ſubſtitute for meat; ſo far indeed is the former from performing the office of the latter, that it often even aggravates the ſuffering that ariſes from the want of it, by awakening an artificial appetite, the violence of which there are no natural means of ſubduing.

W. W.
J. R.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To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

I Shall now, with your permission, resume the subject I hinted at in my last Communication, viz. to show, as far as my experience will show, under what circumstances, and at what periods of life, those distortions of the feet, which are commonly called Club-feet, and more learnedly, but more vaguely, termed varus and valgus, may be cured. Two methods of doing this may be adopted; the first, to advance the doctrine we mean to support, and as far as we can, demonstrate the truth of it by facts to be afterwards produced: the second, to relate the facts, and afterwards draw those consequences that seem to be fairly deducible from them.

The first mode of proceeding has the appearance of advancing an hypothesis, and to mere hypothetical reasoning upon practical subjects, many, with justice, will object; and when a prejudice is thus excited in the mind, it will, sometimes, not be obliterated by the subsequent production of facts; but when facts are simply demonstrated, they are received without prejudice, and every unprejudiced reader will clearly see, whether the consequences drawn from them regularly follow, or whether they admit of a different interpretation. As the last mentioned mode of proceeding appears to me to be the best, I shall adopt it, and select from my notes a few cases, which appear to me to be remarkable, and which certainly would not be generally credited, without the strong proofs I shall produce to confirm them; I shall then draw such conclusions from them as they will fairly admit of, and which, I am not without hopes, may amount to a demonstration of the nature of the disease in general, and the possibility of curing it under circumstances in which it has not till now been cured, though the cure has sometimes been attempted: The first of these cases I send with this, and will send the remainder as soon as my other avocations will afford me time to prepare them. I am,

GENTLEMEN,

Your most obedient servant,

T. SHELDRAKE.

No. 50, Strand,
Nov. 5, 1800.

CASE I.

In the beginning of January, 1798, Mr. Pugh, who then resided in Percy Street, requested me to see a patient at his

houſe; he was a youth of 11 years old, a native of Moſcow, and had been born with the left foot diſtorted; every thing that the ſtate of ſcience, in his own country, could ſuggeſt, had been tried in vain; he then came to London, and was confided to the care of Mr. Pugh, who deſired a conſultation with Meſſrs. Cruikſhank and Wilſon; Mr. Pugh propoſed to have the tibial muſcles and aponeuroſis plantaris, or ſuch parts of them *as he thought* were contracted, divided; after which, he ſaid, *he imagined* he could compleat the cure; this was objected to by the two gentlemen, and Mr. Wilſon adviſed that I ſhould be conſulted.

Dr. Grieve, Mr. Pugh, and the patient's uncle, were preſent when I examined the foot. I had reaſon to believe it was a caſe that I could cure; but I felt it would be indelicate to propoſe, that the patient ſhould be taken from Mr. Pugh and confided to me, I therefore only ſaid, I thought he might be much benefited by what I could do for him; and it was agreed that I ſhould do what I thought right, Mr. Pugh at the ſame time continuing to treat him in his way. But, in a private conference with Mr. Pugh, after the patient and his friends had retired, I deſired to know *his opinion* of the caſe? He thought the patient might be benefited, but had no conception that a cure was poſſible; I declared, unequivocally, my conviction that he might *be perfectly cured*; but, I added, it muſt be by means only known to myſelf, and by my own application; that I had not mentioned this, from motives of delicacy, before the patient and his friends, but thought it right to inform him, I ſhould do nothing unleſs the patient was left entirely to my management; and if this was not agreeable to him, I ſhould decline interfering, and conſider myſelf as withdrawn from the caſe.

Mr. P. was delighted to hear that I thought a cure was not impracticable, and laboured ardently to perſuade me to *inform him* of the method I ſhould uſe, and put *him* in poſſeſſion of my inſtruments; but finding me inflexible, he, with *the affectation of much liberality, declared* he only ſought for the patient's benefit, and therefore conſented that I ſhould proceed in my own way.

But ere I was prepared to begin, the uncle called upon me; he apologized for the diſagreeable ſtep he was going to take, but added, that Pugh had deſired him to prevent *me* from doing any thing, as ſome ideas had occurred to *him*, which he hoped would be beneficial to the patient, and he accordingly did ſatisfy me for my trouble, and the caſe was again left to Mr. Pugh.

In the beginning of February, however, the ſame gentleman applied to me again; I learned, that during the time that elapſed

elapſed ſince I laſt ſaw him, Mr. Pugh had only repeated his former practice, but he had introduced ſome workman who made an inſtrument that could not be applied, he therefore was now determined to truſt the caſe entirely to my management.

At this time I had a caſt in plaſter of Paris made from the foot; this caſt remains in my poſſeſſion, and will demonſtrate that the facts were as follow:

The foot was perfectly rigid, and he was incapable of moving it voluntarily in any direction; though, when he ſtood upon it, the little toe only touched the ground, and then the ancle joint bent a little under him, yielding to the weight of the body, and, in conſequence of this action, becoming gradually more deformed: the head of the aſtragalus projected much before the tibia, the tarſal bones formed an acute angle with reſpect to the tibia, and bent inwards: the metatarſal bones likewiſe formed an acute angle with reſpect to the bones of the tarſus; there was no voluntary motion in the toes, and the tibial muſcles and plantaris aponeuroſis *ſeemed* to be permanently contracted. The knee, in conſequence of the imperfect action of the foot, had bent conſiderably inwards.

He continued under my care till June 19, in the ſame year, when it was neceſſary that he ſhould return to Ruſſia; at this time I had a ſecond caſt taken from the foot, which, as well as the former, remains in my poſſeſſion, and will demonſtrate the following facts, viz.

He ſtood perfectly flat on his foot, inſtead of bearing only on the little toe, the top of the foot forming a right angle with the leg as much as any other foot does: the head of the aſtragalus had regained its natural poſition under the ſcaphoid cavity of the tibia; the bones of the tarſus had regained their natural poſition relative to the leg, and the metatarſal bones had almoſt got into their natural poſition: the conſequence of all this was, that the foot had acquired a form nearly reſembling the natural foot, and actually meaſured ſeven-eights of an inch *more in length than it did when I firſt ſaw it, four months before this period.* The plantaris aponeuroſis and tibial muſcles had loſt their apparent rigidity, and, as well as the tendo achillis, or rather the gaſtrocnemii muſcles, which move it, had acquired the power of acting in the natural way; the peronei muſcles, as well as thoſe which move the toes, had acquired their natural action, and he was, in conſequence, enabled to move the foot in every direction, and in perfect obedience to the will.

So much having been done in this caſe, there was every reaſon to believe the cure would have been perfect in every ſenſe, had he continued longer under my care; but it was in-

 diſpenſibly

dispensibly necessary that he should return to Russia; and it was hoped that what little was still wanting to compleat the cure, might be affected by means of the instruments with which I supplied him. His tutor, an intelligent man, who paid particular attention to the instructions I gave him, undertook the charge; I have since enquired of Mr. N. the patient's uncle, who is still in London, and from him have received the following letter.

MONSIEUR, *Octr.* 15, 1800.

Ayant lû la description que vous avez fait de l'etat dans lequel le pied de mon neveu se trouvoit avant qu'il fut remis entre vos mains et de la difference tres marquée, que le succés des soins et des moyens que vous avez employés y avoit déja porté; lorsqu'a mon grand regret, forcé par quelques circonstances particulieres, je me vis obligé de le renvoyer dans sa patrie, et de faire ceser, ainsi, son traitement. Je croirois, Monsieur, totallement manquer aux sentimens de justice, et a ceux de la reconnoissance pour le bien que vos soins ont rendus a un jeune homme qui m'interesse, si je ne saisissois pas, avec empressement l'occasion que vous m'offrez de satisfaire au desir que j'ai toujours eu, de rendre a vos talents un temoignage aussi public que possible; guidé par ce sentiment, ainsi que par l'amour de la justice, je declare que tout ce que j'ai lû dans la memoire que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de me communiquer, porte, en general, et sur tous ses points, le caractere de la plus stricte verité; et que, de mon coté je n'ai pas le moindre doute que s'il eut été possible de le laisser plus long tems entre vos mains, sa jambe rentreroit entierement dans son etat naturel. En effet, Monsieur, je crois que l'evidence des faits m'autorise de le supposer: car, losqu' aprés m'avoir separé de lui pour quelques mois, je le revis à Hambourg, par ou il passoit pour rentrer dans son pais, je ne fus pas peu surpris de le voir poser sa jambe sur la plante du pied, et d'une maniere qu'il ne resteroit rien a desirer une fois que le vice du genou, successivement produit par le poids du corps, qui, dans son etat, devoit necessairement porter a faux, seroit enlevé: et, en examinant la derniere machine que vous fites pour lui et dont il devoit continuer a s'en servir, j'ai crû avoir toute les raisons possibles de former les plus flateuses esperances que ce dernieré moyen remedieroit à ce mal, avec le meme succés qu'ont eu les premiers. Je suis faché, pourtant, que malgré toutes mes instances pour avoir quelques details sur la suite des effets qu' a produit l'application de cette derniere machine, je ne puis obtenir d'autres reponses, que celles, ou l'on me disoit vaguement, que sa jambe alloit beaucoup mieux. Je le

repête

repête encore que, pour ma propre ſatisfaction ainſi que pour la votre, j'aurois bien deſiré pouvoir etre en etat de vous en rendre un compte plus circonſtantiè; mais, en attendant que je ſois a meme de le faire, je ne ſuis cependant pas peu flaté de pouvoir vous rendre toute la juſtice qui eſt en mon pouvoir, comme un tribût de la reconnoiſſance avec laquelle j'ai l'honneur d'etre,

MONSIEUR,

Votre trés devoué,

N. de NOVASSILZOFF.

No. 71, Warren Street,
Fitzroy Square.

It will, perhaps, not be unreaſonable to conclude, that ere this the patient is *perfectly* well; but as I wiſh to avoid every thing that may afford the leaſt pretence for doubt or contradiction, I ſhall confine myſelf to ſuch facts as are capable of being ſatisfactorily demonſtrated.

I have ſaid I cauſed one caſt to be made from the foot before any thing was done, and another at the time I took my leave of the patient; theſe caſts are in my poſſeſſion, and I have made three drawings from each of them, placing them as nearly as poſſible in correſponding ſituations; theſe views are annexed, and will convey an accurate idea of the ſtate of the foot at the periods when it was within the ſphere of my obſervation. Mr. N's letter deſcribes what was his ſituation ſome months after he left me; and from the combined effect of this evidence, the reader will form his own concluſions.

In making my drawings of the original diſeaſe, I have placed the leg quite upright, and the foot falls into the ſituation it was in when he ſtood upon it: There are three views of the foot in this ſtate; No. 1, looking directly upon the inſide of the leg; No. 2, upon the outſide of the ſame; and No. 3, a front view of the leg. The appearance of the foot in each of theſe views, will, I think, ſhow very intelligibly the actual ſtate of the diſtortion.

In drawing the foot after it was cured, I have purſued the ſame plan; that is, there are three views; in making which, I placed the leg in exactly the ſame ſituation as I did the former; by comparing them, the improved ſtate of the foot will, I think, be clearly underſtood.

In No. 1, being the inſide of the foot, there appears not the leaſt deformity; in No. 2, the appearance is not ſo perfect; and in No. 3, there is the additional diſadvantage of ſhowing a fore ſhortened view of the foot; but theſe ſhow all the deformity then remaining, viz. that thoſe bones which form what is commonly called the inſtep, are ſomething higher than uſual.

At

At the time this patient was entrusted to my care, I had treated none who were by many years so far advanced in life. The circumstance which then seemed to me remarkable, as it distinguished this from every case that had been under my care, was the following: In young subjects, the reduction of the feet to their natural form is effected long before the power of using them is acquired; but in this case, those two effects were produced at the same time; whence we are justified in concluding, that if those trifling peculiarities which remained when he was taken from under my care, were not afterwards removed, notwithstanding those imperfections, his foot is in every respect as useful as the other; but if we are to assume, as most probably is the fact, that they have since disappeared, the cure is in every respect compleat.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

Gentlemen,

In a late Number of your valuable Journal, I observe that a Mr. Sheldrake has given what he denominates an answer to my Communication on distorted limbs. Regard for the interests of truth undoubtedly induced you to publish his answer; and respect to justice will induce you, I hope, to admit my reply.

The general common-place observations in the first part of the answer are, in my opinion, an odd mixture of affected candor and of intentional severity. As they, however, affect not the merits of my communication, but, like many introductions, may with safety be attached to any other publication, I shall proceed to consider that part of the answer which calls the originality of the invention in question. For this, three reasons, beside his own claim, which is afterwards *modestly* advanced, are proposed.

1. Mr. S. says, he has some *reasons* to conclude that the invention is not very dissimilar from the *Edinburgh boots*, which, by the bye, he does not pretend to have seen, but only received, by second hand, a description of them which came from a Dr. Dease, with whom he had no communication on the subject. The want of *candor* in this first reason is certainly inconsistent with that *display* of it so frequently made by Mr. S. And if he who has made the subject of distorted limbs so much his study, has not met with these boots, it cannot be surprising that they never came in the way of a practitioner in the *country*?— What

What these *well-known* Edinburgh boots were I have not been able to learn, nor can I form any idea of them from the account Mr. S. has given, further than that they *press* and *compress* the legs; and from this *candid*, but certainly *superficial* mode of reasoning, he concludes that it is impossible they can be very *dissimilar* to the one in question.

2. The circumstance of Dr. Aitkin's instrument resembling mine in *part*, is adduced as the second reason; and I may be allowed to obviate this objection by observing that the Doctor's instrument was not to my purpose, and has not answered the purpose of surgeons in general. In the first of the two cases I have communicated to the public, before the application of my machine, and before I saw the case, Dr. Aitkin's invention, as well as many others, had been repeatedly tried, but without success. With regard to the similarity between the two contrivances I shall say nothing; the Doctor's Essays on Fractures, &c. are well known, and every one has it in his power to compare and judge accordingly.

3. It may appear a waste of time to refute his third reason, since Mr. S. admits that the invention of Mr. Holmes, the shoe-maker, only *imperfectly* cured some very *slight cases*, but was never able *to cure any one important case of distortion*. Why then, since his invention is of so little consequence, is it brought into view? I should certainly have suspected, had Mr. S. been writing another *Practical Essay* on distorted limbs, that he had foisted in the *shoe-maker* with little other motive than merely to *swell* the size of his volume.

Thus it appears that the *reasons* Mr. S. proposes against the originality of the invention are nothing more than *bare assertions*. The first is founded upon *report*. The second, even according to his own account, which, by the bye, is carried to the extreme, only *resembles it*; nay still less, only *resembles it in part*. And the third, where the *shoe-maker* is brought into view, is still more trifling; for, granting that there is such a man as Mr. Holmes, the shoe-maker, and that he has invented something for curing distorted limbs, it appears, to use the words of Mr. S. that his invention was totally useless, having never cured any one important case of distortion. What their *long* experience proves I cannot tell; but I beg leave to say, that my *short* experience has witnessed the cure of *more than one* important case of distortion. Indeed, with regard to the labours of Mr. Holmes, the *shoe-maker*, and with him I may associate Mr. Sheldrake, the *truss-maker*, it would be *uncandid*, nay *unjust*, to say any thing, having never seen, much less tried, the invention either of the one or the other.

Having

Having ſaid *thus much* of the *originality* of the invention, Mr. S. introduces his remarks on its *efficacy* with a few more common-place obſervations, which, as they appear to be little to the point, I ſhall paſs over, and proceed to conſider his *aſſertions* with regard to its *inutility*.—He cannot conceive how any man, and particularly one at ſuch a *diſtance* from the metropolis, could have the *temerity* and *confidence* to thruſt down people's throats ſuch *crude* and indigeſtible notions; notions which have no other foundation in practice than two caſes, and which Mr. S. in his uſual *hypothetical* ſtile, aſſures his readers were only *very ſlight ones*. — If it is proceeding upon ſlight and ſuperficial ground, to venture to recommend a method of cure which has been completely ſucceſsful in two caſes, it is certainly ſtill more ſo to condemn that method, without giving it a trial at all. This is certainly not like the actions of a man of *candor*, who proceeds by *reiterated experiments*, and whoſe opinions and aſſertions are founded alone on the evidence of facts. Yet ſuch is the conduct of this hero, who has ſo humanely and *diſintereſtedly* volunteered his ſervices to protect the healing art from ſuch *crudities* and groſs innovations.

There is one thing in Mr. S's anſwer, which the moſt ſuperficial reader muſt have obſerved with aſtoniſhment, that is, the wonderful verſatility of his genius in accommodating itſelf, with ſo much facility, to all the endleſs varieties of this claſs of diſeaſes. He aſſures us, that of more than an hundred caſes which he has cured perfectly, no two were alike, or could have been cured without adopting the mode of treatment peculiar to each. Nay, what is ſtill more aſtoniſhing, there is not only this endleſs variety in the caſes themſelves, but *there is, in every caſe, one condition of the bones that will require peculiar treatment, there is another condition of the ligaments, and a third of the muſcles*. To believe the firſt of theſe aſſertions, that no two caſes are *exactly* alike, requires no uncommon ſtretch of credulity; and the laſt, although it may excite the ſmile of the anatomiſt, certainly adds little to our knowledge of the *facts* of the diſeaſe.

Mr. S. has ſaid much about *crude* ideas, and *crude* notions, of the *facts* of this diſeaſe. I ſhould be glad to know in what particular he has rendered our ideas of the *facts* of the diſeaſe more preciſe, ſimple, or intelligible than they were; and where he has ſubſtituted better terms than thoſe of VARUS and VALGUS, which have been ſo univerſally uſed. I am of the ſame opinion with him, that terms ſhould be as appropriate as poſſible, and that *varus* and *valgus*, if not ſufficiently deſcriptive, be rendered explicit by definition, or give way to terms better adapted

adapted to determine the nature of the diſeaſe. But I cannot ſurely incur any blame for employing the old terms, which Mr. S. with all the extenſive information to which he lays claim, has not ventured to expunge. If my ideas of the facts of the diſeaſe *ſeem* to be *crude*, my practice has been *really* ſucceſsful; and Mr. S's *mite*, I am aſſured, has not added much to the intelligence of any of my medical friends who have read his anſwer. Indeed, the only thing that can be gathered from the whole of Mr. S's anſwer, is a conſtant wiſh to magnify the difficulties of applying the machine, and effecting a cure, and might, perhaps, have been expreſſed in a few words, by ſimply telling us, *that none could do any thing to it but himſelf.*

Theſe aſſertions, the reſult of Mr. Sheldrake's many years practice, ſet this claſs of diſeaſes in a light they had never been placed in by any perſon whatever, and he has thus diſcovered and perfected a method of cure much more effectual than any that had previouſly been known! To ſay nothing of the *modeſty* of this claim, I ſhall only obſerve, that if there be one condition of the bones, another of the ligaments, and a third of the muſcles, that require treatment peculiarly adapted to each; and if no two caſes in more than an hundred be alike, or could have been cured by the ſame means, the public can derive little or no advantage from the publicity of his patent, or the application of his machine, which, in this caſe, would require a verſatility of genius to adapt it, equal, if not ſuperior, to that of its *Original Inventor*.

In oppoſition to this eccentric mode of reaſoning, I can aſſure Mr. S. that I have now cured two caſes completely, and at this moment I have proceeded a conſiderable length with ſome more; that all of them were, in ſome reſpects different; but all are likely to be cured by the ſame means. And if I may now believe the teſtimony of my ſenſes, as well as the opinion of ſome eminent medical gentlemen, I may ſay, and with more confidence than ever, "that there is no caſe of diſtorted limbs, however formidable they may appear, *if taken in time*, but may be cured by the ſame means." I ſay, *if taken in time*, for my experience does not authoriſe me to ſay, that one above a year and a half old can be cured of the diſeaſe.

In a ſubſequent part of the anſwer, I was ſomewhat ſurpriſed to find, a reſemblance mentioned between my invention and that of Mr. S. He is very careful to expoſe the inefficacy of mine; and this affords a clue by which we can ſee through the ambiguity of his expreſſions, and arrive at the motive of his attack. But prudence ſhould have dictated another line of conduct, ſince, by cenſuring one whom he conſiders a rival, he expoſes himſelf to ſimilar condemnation. What he

he adduces againſt the inefficacy of my invention, if the reſemblance be ſtriking, muſt be equally applicable to his. I am far from thinking that either are ſo ineffectual as Mr. S. would inſinuate: I have informed the public of the effect produced by the inſtrument which I contrived; and as I have not had an opportunity of applying Mr. Sheldrake's, I cannot in juſtice give any opinion upon its merits. I did not expect that a man of *candor* would have commenced an attack upon any invention till he had made trial of its merits, and by the *ſure teſt* of EXPERIMENT been enabled to decide with *accuracy*. The *crudeneſs* of this manner of cenſuring, is obvious without a comment; and though, from my ſhort ſtanding in the profeſſion, I cannot lay claim to Mr. Sheldrake's OMNISCIENCE in caſes of diſtortion, I affirm, that his anſwer has done very little to render our knowledge of the *facts* of the diſeaſe more complete than they were before.

I may obſerve too, that if my inſtrument nearly reſembles Mr. Sheldrake's, it is equally efficacious; if more imperfect, it need not have given him alarm; and if an improvement on his conſtruction, as a friend to humanity, he ſhould have rejoiced in what was likely to benefit mankind. Had Mr. S. been convinced in his own mind that he could ſubſtantiate his charge of my invention being the ſame, or ſimilar to his, he had no occaſion to employ this method of procuring redreſs. No, have recourſe to his *patent*, which, he ſays, he obtained to ſecure the benefit of his diſcovery to *himſelf*. Let him have recourſe to the laws of his nation, and ſeek redreſs in its proper channel, and not with his native effrontery *criminate* thoſe by BARE ASSERTIONS whom he cannot *condemn* by SOUND ARGUMENT.

The *candid manner* in which my Communication has been treated, lays me under under ſtrong obligations to ſpecify the particulars moſt deſerving of my gratitude. I conſidered it as neceſſary to mention the minuteſt circumſtances attending the cure; and when humanity and caution dictated the preſcription of a mild opiate, I did not expect that for this I would have received animadverſions from any perſon who had the moſt diſtant pretenſions to medical ſkill. If Mr. S. has cured more than a hundred important caſes of diſtortion without adminiſtering any medicine to alleviate the pain neceſſarily attendant on the progreſs of the cure, he has been fortunate indeed, or is poſſeſſed of feelings not very tenderly alive to infantine ſuffering. In the firſt caſe I found it neceſſary; in the ſecond, although the caſe was conſiderably worſe, I did not: In one of them I have under my care at preſent, I uſe it occaſionally; in the reſt, I find it abſolutely unneceſſary.

An

An error, either typographical or in the MS. tranſmitted, has met with cenſure. The ſlighteſt reflection might have diſcovered, that the ſecond NOT in line 8, page 94, was inadvertently inſerted; and on this account it was certainly below any man, much more a man of *candor*, to have taken the advantage of it.

I take leave of this ſubject, requeſting that my readers will pardon any appearance of *egotism* that may appear in this reply, ſince it is not eaſy to talk of oneſelf without giving offence. I am,

GENTLEMEN,

Your much obliged ſervant,

Paiſley, Oct. 21, 1800. R. WATT.

*** In a private letter from Mr. Watt, he ſays, " In conſequence of my former communication, I have had many applications of late from different parts of the kingdom, and have at preſent under my care a great many caſes of diſtortion. I have, ſince my laſt communication, invented another machine, which I apply when there is only one foot diſtorted, and when the patient is ſo old as to be able to walk. This machine retains the limb in a proper poſition, while at the ſame time the patient can walk about with tolerable eaſe. By making a little alteration, I have alſo applied it with great advantage to debility of the knee and ankle joint, and for removing ſtiffneſſes of the knee-joint, occaſioned by contraction of the muſcles and tendons on the poſterior ſide of the limb: An account of this will probably form the ſubject of a future communication. I believe, in a former letter I informed you, that I had invented a machine for curing diſtortions of the ſpine, ſhoulders, and neck; upwards of twenty of which have now been made, and applied with great advantage.

" In a letter a few days ago, which I had from Mr. Moyes, of Edinburgh, he informs me, that he has lately had orders from York for two of the inſtruments for Lithotomy, (publiſhed in No. XIII. of your Journal) one to Aberdeen, and two to two medical gentlemen in Edinburgh. I have myſelf, within theſe three months, had orders for one to Mancheſter, one to Liverpool, one to Glaſgow, and one to Philadelphia. From which demands, I flatter myſelf, that ſome time or other it may come into general uſe.

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

THE reſult of the following caſe I hope will not be deemed unworthy your attention, and a place in your valuable Journal; deſirous of ſhowing the junior practitioner the propriety of his attempting to afford relief even in thoſe caſes where the endea-

vours of the more experienced in the profession have been defeated. I am,

GENTLEMEN,

Your's, very respectfully,

J. COWLEY.

St. Thomas's Hospital,
Oct. 16, 1800.

James Flocker, aged 29, of low stature, but of robust make, was admitted into St. Thomas's Hospital on Sept. 25, 1800, with a luxation of the jaw. Said, on the 27th of August last, he retired to bed at his usual hour, in health; but at three o'clock the next morning, he awoke with a violent pain in the face, attended with much stiffness, and the mouth in an open, fixed state. The same day he applied to two surgeons for advice, who both agreeing that it was a luxation of the jaw, attempted its reduction repeatedly, without success: the patient remained under their care three weeks; but receiving no relief, he left the country for town, and on the above day applied at St. Thomas's Hospital, with an evident luxation of the jaw; yet, in other respects, apparently in health. His appetite good; pulse full and regular; the muscles of the face in a state of rigidity; and his mouth sore from the treatment he had received; so that the introduction of the finger was attended with much pain. Under these circumstances, I considered much depended on my first attempt; and Mr. Birch (the surgeon under whose care he was admitted) having advised me to effect as complete a relaxation of the parts as possible, before any means were used for its replacement, I applied five leeches on each side of the face, in the direction of the masseter and temporal muscles, which having dropped off, the after hæmorrhage was much increased by placing the patient in the warm bath at 98°, which was gradually increased to 106 degrees of heat of Farenheit's thermometer. After the patient had been in twenty minutes, his pulse sunk, became irregular, and shewed symptoms of syncope; at this juncture (the patient remaining in the bath) I attempted to press on the jaw with my thumbs covered, but finding it impossible to act with advantage in this manner, I removed the incumbrance, and introduced them unarmed and pressing on the jaw as far back as possible, beginning with a slight pressure, slowly adding the force requisite, I continued the extension downward, with a slight inclination forward, for ten minutes; at this time I tried to force back the jaw, and evidently perceived it to be altered in its situation; but on its producing some pain, the patient forced himself from my hands, and the fossæ receiving the condyles of the jaw, being in a great measure filled up with an extravasated substance, (this I

consider

confider to be the fact, from the jaw not flipping into its place fuddenly, as is generally expected in thefe accidents) it refumed its wrong fituation with the greateft facility: At this time his pulfe began to encreafe, both in fize and fulnefs; I therefore immediately renewed my extenfion as before, and having continued it for ten minutes, again preffed backward, and had the fatisfaction to fee it properly reduced. The parts were now fecured by a bandage, and the patient retired to bed. 26th. He complains of pain in the direction of the temporal mufcles, his pulfe weak, foft, and flow; the fymptoms of irritation are not however fo great as expected, fo that a confinement to bed is unneceffary; he took an aperient draught this afternoon. 27th. His pulfe is increafed in ftrength and fulnefs; the draught procured him three motions, which gave great relief; from this time he may be confidered as in perfect health, capable of mafticating folid food, and in every other refpect as well as before the accident. October 9, he was prefented out of the Hofpital, cured.

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyfical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

CASES are, I believe, no longer requifite to prove the efficacy of the Cow-pox in preventing the Small-pox; and hence it is probable, the circumftances hereafter to be ftated may not be worthy of your infertion: I fhall however communicate the facts, leaving you to decide on the propriety of making them public.

On the 6th of September, I inferted the vaccine lymph, which had been fuffered to dry on the lancets, into the arms of an healthy child, about eight months old, who had been inoculated for the fame difeafe a few months previous, by another practitioner, without fuccefs; this infertion alfo failed, and I repeated the inoculation on the eighth day, immediately from the arm of another infant. The ufual appearances taking place in each arm, the patient went regularly through the difeafe. Now, there was a fifter fome months older, the inoculation of whom, the parents were defirous to defer till lymph might be obtained from the brother; but on the fixth day from the fuccefsful inoculation of the latter, the former had a plentiful eruption, which proved to be variolous. The difeafe of each proceeded

proceeded regularly, and I frequently ſaw the children laying alternately in one cradle.

On the tenth day of the vaccine diſeaſe, I had the child who had been thus expoſed to the variolous contagion, brought to my houſe, and from him inoculated three other children, who alſo have gone regularly through the diſeaſe.

The former patient continuing in good health, and not having to this time received the variolous contagion, adds one very ſtrong caſe to the many already made known, to prove the preventive effects of Vaccine Inoculation. I am,

GENTLEMEN,

Green Street, Groſvenor Square,
October 8, 1800.

Your humble ſervant,
THO. SERGEANT.

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

IF the incloſed medical hiſtories and reflections correſpond with the plan of your Journal, the diſpoſal of them is very much at your ſervice. I am,

GENTLEMEN,

Wakefield,
October 18, 1800.

Your humble ſervant,
CALEB CROWTHER, M. D.

Case of Induration of the Veſiculæ Seminales, Proſtate Glands, and Rectum.

I firſt ſaw Mr. A. B. a married man, aged about fifty, on the 19th of Auguſt, 1798. He was then affected with frequent motions to make water, accompanied with exquiſitely painful emiſſions of ſemen every time he made water; he complained alſo of frequent pain in the glans penis. His bowels were regular, he had no thirſt, his pulſe was about 80 in a minute, his appetite not much impaired; in ſhort, he followed his uſual occupation, and the only inconvenience he ſuffered was from the debility and emaciation induced by the painful emiſſions. The ſurgeon who had previouſly attended him, Mr. Taylor of this place, informed me that about the middle of February laſt, he began to be affected with ſtrangury, which continued with occaſional intervals of eaſe, until the latter end of April, when he was attacked with ſwelled teſticle, accompanied with conſiderable

considerable pyrexia. On the disappearance of this affection, came on the painful and involuntary emission of semen after voiding urine. After this symptom had continued some time, the semen emitted was nothing more than a light froth, followed by a discharge of air from the urethra.

From this period, the 19th of August, I saw him no more until the 25th of December, four days before his death. I was informed by Mr. T. that he continued in much the same state as when I last saw him, until about the middle of November, when the emission of semen ceased. On the 1st of December, he began to have much more pain than usual about the neck of the bladder, his strength sunk fast, his general appearance altered very much, and in the course of a few days afterwards he began to discharge purulent matter from the urethra, which continued until his death.

Appearances on Dissection.

On inspecting the cavity of the pelvis, the bladder appeared thickened, and adhered firmly to the rectum and adjacent parts. The upper part of the rectum was thickened and indurated, or, as it is commonly termed, schirrous. The vesiculæ seminales were about the size of a moderate nutmeg; when cut into, there appeared no regular cavity, but extravasated blood seemed to be interspersed through their whole substance.

Both the prostate glands were much enlarged and indurated, and the left gland in a state of suppuration. The urethra was sound throughout the whole course, but considerably contracted near the neck of the bladder. The internal surface of the bladder was not ulcerated nor diseased. The testicles were both sound, but very small. The epididymis of one of the testicles appeared to be wasted away, in the other testicle it was very small.

The only remedy which I ordered for him was cicuta and opium, in the form of pills, which he took but for a very short time. He afterwards took cicuta and calomel; and a neighbouring physician, who considered the case to be an ulceration of the bladder, ordered for him uva ursi, mucilaginous medicines, and anodyne injections. The only thing which afforded him relief was opium. In the early stage of the disease he took various other medicines appropriated to the existing symptoms of the complaint.

He confessed that he had been much addicted to Onanism in his youth, and warned his young relatives a few days before his death of the perniciousness of the practice, to which he ascribed his present complaints. It is not improbable, I think, that his surmise with respect to the cause of his disease was well

well founded. On examination per anum in August, I could not discover any enlargement in the prostate glands. The diminution in the size of the testicles was effected by a continuation of the disease; there was nothing unnatural in their appearance when I first saw him. The diseased part of the rectum was not contracted; but if not kept open in his bowels, he had frequent tenesmus.

Supposing that a case precisely similar to this were to recur, and that the medical attendant should be thoroughly acquainted with the parts diseased, the prospect of a cure from the exhibition of medicines would not, I fear, be very favourable.

Case of Mania.

John Lauton, aged about 26 years, on the 11th of April, 1800, became deranged. For a fortnight before this period he had been much dejected, and, being under the influence of religious fear, had devoted the greatest part of his time to serious reading. He had previously been in the habit of frequent intoxication, and his mother had been deranged at intervals for the last twenty years. His pulse and other functions, when I first saw him, were natural; but he had been at times, for a few hours, very ungovernable. Religion was the topic on which he raved. I ordered a strait-waistcoat to be made use of, and prescribed a solution of Antim. Tartarizat. which operated pretty well, when he had taken 8 grains. After the operation of the emetic, I directed him to take a few grains of camphor every four hours. On the 13th and 14th there appeared very little alteration in the symptoms. His pulse was about 80 in a minute, and of natural strength. Being costive he had each day an enema administered, but refused to take any more medicines.

I designed to put him under the influence of digitalis, but his attendants were unable to compel him to take it. I was surprised to hear, on the 15th, of his death, which took place on the preceding evening. As I saw no symptoms indicating danger during my last visit, I requested leave to examine the body. On the 14th, in the morning, having become less untractable, his attendants had removed the strait waistcoat. When I visited him, about ten o'clock in the morning, I requested his attendants again to apply the strait waistcoat immediately; but this direction not being complied with, in the course of an hour he became so unruly that six men were unable to put on the strait waistcoat; on this account they bound him in bed with cords. The efforts which he made to disentangle

tangle himſelf, occaſioned thoſe parts of the body that came in contact with the cords, particularly about the thorax and thighs, to be much diſcoloured.

Appearances on Dissection.

On opening the head I found that the inveſting membranes of the brain had no diſeaſed appearance, nor, indeed, did I obſerve any unnatural appearance in the ſubſtance of the brain itſelf, until I divided a ſmall portion lying immediately over the ſella turcica; when I diſcovered a quantity of florid blood mixed with air, in the form of froth, proceeding from a ruptured artery, a very ſmall branch originating from the arterial circle of Willis. This extravaſation, which did not exceed two or three drachms, ſeems to have been the immediate cauſe of this man's death. Perhaps in this caſe, the preſſure of the air which had eſcaped from the artery, had been more injurious than the blood. The extravaſation of two or three drachms of blood ſeems to be but a trifling cauſe to produce ſo great an effect. The body was opened about twenty-four hours after the patient's death. The ſubſtance of the brain, in this caſe, was not harder than uſual, that appearance being probably the effect of long-continued diſeaſe. On examining the thorax, a rib was found fractured by the cords; but the contents of the thorax were not diſeaſed. The heart ſeemed to be ſomewhat ſmaller than uſual.

Thoſe alone who have practiſed medicine will be able to form a juſt idea of the difficulties which phyſicians have to encounter, in combating the prejudices and affections of the ſick and their attendants. The antipathy which the lower claſs of people have to the uſe of the ſtrait waiſtcoat is ſuch, that often no reaſoning, no entreaty, can prevail upon them to employ it, until, perhaps, the life of the patient, or his attendants, has been endangered; and even then, as ſoon as ever a lucid interval appears, the waiſtcoat is thrown off, being conſidered as a badge of inſufferable diſgrace. This is the ſecond inſtance of mania occurring in my practice within the laſt eight months, which terminated fatally, apparently by binding the patient with cords. On this account, it is much preferable to ſend maniacal patients to houſes of reception for this unfortunate claſs of people, than to leave them to the management of relatives and friends.

Far the greater proportion of caſes of mental derangement, which have fallen under my notice, have been excited by religious fear. The glowing and paſſionate language, the rude and frantic geſtures, the boiſterous and thundering tone, in which eternal anathemas are dealt out from the pulpit; in which

the terrors of hell are diſplayed by ignorant enthuſiaſts amongſt the ſectaries, at once appal and paralyze the minds of their poor uninformed auditors. One idea only, the proſpect of eternal puniſhment, the image of hell before their eyes, occupies their judgment, rivets their attention. Confuſion follows intenſity of thought, and derangement confuſion. Several times has it been my lot to obſerve the progreſs of cauſe and effect above deſcribed. In attending upon phthiſical patients, I have frequently ſeen the few laſt moments of theſe poor wretches embittered by the intruſion of ſome religious fanatic, whoſe gloomy picture of futurity has produced derangement.

Case of Scorbutus, combined with Dyspepsia.

I firſt ſaw the Rev. Mr. H. a clergyman, reſident about eight miles from this place, on the 5th of April, 1800. He then complained of great laſſitude and debility, of pain and rigidity in the lower extremities, which were almoſt entirely covered on the fore part with large vibices of various colours, particularly brown and purple. Towards evening the legs were œdematous. The gums had juſt begun to be ſore, painful, and to bleed upon being ſlightly touched. His nights were reſtleſs, and the ſleep he got not refreſhing. His pulſe was ſmall and quick, his bowels looſe, his appetite very bad; he was frequently affected with gaſtrodynia, flatulence, and uneaſineſs after taking food. Upon enquiry into the previous hiſtory of the diſeaſe, I found that he had laboured under dyſpepſia for ſeveral years, and that his bowels had been ſo much diſordered that for two years he had not had a naturally-formed ſtool. He had not dared to eat vegetables for near two years paſt; his diet had principally conſiſted of toaſted bread, gruels, and fleſh meat, but of theſe he had eaten very ſparingly, on account of the uneaſineſs which he experienced after taking them, as well as from anorexia. He led a ſedentary life, and had been under the influence of grief for ſome time paſt. The whole of this caſe being recorded from memory, ſome time after the event, I cannot vouch for the accuracy of every minute particular, but am certain that the general ſtatement will be found to be correct. The whole claſs of remedies neceſſary for the cure of ſcurvy diſagreeing with my dyſpeptic patient, I felt ſome difficulty in preſcribing for him. Convinced, however, that the only chance for ſaving his life conſiſted in conveying remedies into the ſyſtem, containing oxygen in a ſtate eaſily to be decompoſed, in order to enable the ſtomach to retain and digeſt ſuitable diet, I preſcribed the following medicine:

℞. Decoct.

℞. Decoct. cort. cinchon. ℥vij. Tinct. cort. cinchon. comp. ℥j. Confect. aromat. ʒij vel ʒiij. Tinct. opii gt. LXXX. M. ft. Apozem. partitis vicibus quotidie ſumend.

I ordered him to have a pint of Port wine, and to eat half a dozen oranges daily; to take ſome good broth, mixed with the juice of nettles (the only vegetable then exiſting in that part of the country) and to eat broiled meat once or twice a day, according as the appetite would allow.

In caſe diarrhœa ſhould recur during the uſe of the above remedies, I directed Mr. H. to take a tea ſpoon full of infuſion of logwood, with a few drops of tinct. opii after every looſe ſtool.

I ſaw Mr. H. again on the 10th of April, when I had the ſatisfaction of finding him, in every reſpect, much better. The quantity of tinct. opii, of courſe, occaſioned a good deal of drowſineſs, but it enabled his ſtomach to retain both food and medicines. The ſtrength and appetite had increaſed very much; his ſtools were regular and well formed; his pulſe was ſlower and ſtronger. I could not obſerve much alteration in the appearance of the blotches, but the gums were leſs ſore, and the limbs leſs painful. I ordered his medicines to be continued, diminiſhing the quantity of tinct. opii to ſixty drops daily; he never had occaſion to uſe the logwood. I directed him to take ſuch freſh vegetables as the ſeaſon afforded.

On the 5th of May I found that he had continued gradually and regularly to recover ſince my laſt viſit. His appetite for food, both animal and vegetable, had become very keen, and he had eaſily digeſted it. He had gained much ſtrength and fleſh, and his pulſe was regular. Many of the vibices on the extremities had diſappeared, and ſuch as remained, inſtead of being purple and brown, had become yellow. He now nearly diſcontinued his medicines, ſtill, however, perſevering in the uſe of a generous diet.

The hiſtory of ſcurvy originating from inſufficient vegetable nouriſhment, has been ſo well explained and exemplified by Drs. Milman and Storke, that I ſhould have conſidered the recitation of this caſe totally unneceſſary, had it not been on account of its complication with dyſpepſia. Independent of the cure of the ſcorbutic ſymptoms, the relief that was afforded to the dyſpepſia was greater than could have been calculated upon in the given time. A day or two before I ſaw him, Mr. H. eat part of an orange, which occaſioned much uneaſineſs in the ſtomach and bowels. Yet, a ſhort time after I ſaw him, when under the influence of opium, the prima viæ were able to digeſt daily, without annoyance, ſix oranges, beſides broth, with nettle juice, animal food, and wine. In caſe the opium had not

not produced the desired effect, the inhalation of oxygen gas would have been the only probable mean of saving life; but, from the situation in which my patient was placed, the administration of it would have been attended with much trouble and inconvenience.

Two other instances have occurred to me, within the last twelve months, of scurvy produced by a meagre and insufficient diet, which readily gave way to the usual remedies.

Case of the fatal Effect of Opium obviated.

On the 30th of September, 1800, I was sent for to see J. R. a young man about 19 years of age, who, an hour before, had taken an ounce of laudanum, with a view of destroying himself. He was then in a deadly stupor, and his pulse 120 in a minute. I ordered him to be stripped, and directed two men to rub his body and limbs very freely with salt, which was persevered in, with occasional short intervals of rest, for upwards of four hours. As soon as any particular part became hot, or had a tendency to excoriate, I ordered the men to discontinue the friction on that part. He had already taken a large dose of ipecacuanha; I afterwards gave him half a drachm of vitriolated zinc, dissolved in one ounce of water. It was got into him in this way: Two tea spoons full were put into his mouth, he being laid on his back; his nose was then irritated with a feather dipped in liquor volat. cornu cervi, upon which he was roused, and deglutition took place. In this way the juice of three lemons was got into him. The emetic did not operate for more than an hour, and at last vomiting seemed to be effected by irritating the throat with the feather mentioned above. Afterwards he had administered to him, in the same way, some wine and water, and a mixture with æther and cordial confection. Stimulating the nostrils roused him for a few seconds, and made him exert considerable muscular strength, but he relapsed again immediately into his former stupor. I ordered his nostrils to be irritated every ten minutes. He took the laudanum at eight o'clock in the evening, and the stupor did not leave him until two o'clock in the morning. At eight o'clock, A. M. he seemed perfectly recovered, complaining only of soreness in consequence of the friction.

The indication to be kept in view in obviating the effect of opium, appears to be, as pointed out by Dr. Seaman, to produce such a degree of irritation as to counteract its soporific quality. With this intention I prescribed the emetic, the stimulation of the nostrils with liq. volat. cornu cervi, and the friction

friction with salt. Nothing occurred to me so likely to produce an equable irritation without subsequent injury, as friction with salt. The effect it produced fully answering my expectation, I gave the lemon juice more in compliance with custom, than from any dependance on its antidotal operation. The stomach is rendered so torpid by the opium, that very little effect can be produced by the exhibition of internal remedies.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

I Enclose you a case, probably somewhat remarkable for the rapidity of recovery, when the extent of injury and nature of climate in which it happened, the West Indies, supposed so very unpropitious to the healing of wounds, are considered.

The success attending this operation, as well as some others equally important, may be in a great degree ascribed to our having many opportunities of procuring supplies of fresh vegetables, which had the power of obviating predisposition to scurvy amongst the ship's company I belonged to; a tendency of the habit to be guarded against by every possible means, where action is expected or energy required. I am,

GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES VEITCH.

No. 20, Edgecumbe Street, Stonehouse,
October 20, 1800.

P. S. In my letter to the Commissioners for Sick and Wounded Seamen, you have made a small mistake, by subscribing me *Veiten* instead of *Veitch*, which you will oblige by correcting.

May 28, 1797, John Spencer, aged about twenty, in handing the main-top gallant sail, fell from the yard, and fractured the right parietal bone. On being informed of the accident, I could not help thinking my interference, from the height being so very considerable, 116 feet, would amount to no more than what is expected by the physician or surgeon, when they administer a placebo, merely to gratify relatives, conscious that their patient is irretrievably lost; but the result shews how erroneous opinions, formed without exact investigation of the extent of injury, may prove. He was ordered to be carried under

under the half deck, the place appointed for the reception of the ſick, and fortunately it was not crowded, there being only one man in the ſick birth, on whom I had operated for Empyema. The ſcalp preſented a wound rather irregular, running in ſome degree in the direction of what is called the ſuperior poſterior proceſs of the parietal bone to that of the anterior inferior, and it was ſo large as to admit no doubt that conſiderable injury was inflicted on the ſkull, for I found by the moſt ſuperficial examination, extenſive fracture with depreſſion, attended with ſymptoms which indicated this; laborious reſpiration, coma, intermitting and ſlow pulſe. The wound inflicted by the fall was rendered more extenſive, and then conical, my knife acting in ſubſervience to the higheſt reſpect for the covering parts. The ſcalp when raiſed, brought to light an extenſive fracture of the parietal bone, with depreſſion and infraction, following the direction of the external wound which had been inflicted by the fall, and only connected firmly at one point, (which depreſſed bone reminded me of a peninſula) but ſeveral parts of the undepreſſed parietal bone followed the principal depreſſion, and in themſelves formed each a ſource of compreſſion; features in the face of the fracture, that induced me to form the reſolution of removing the depreſſed piece of bone entirely, provided, after an application or two of the trephine, this piece, with the compreſſing points, could not be elevated. The branches of the temporal artery were allowed to bleed freely, notwithſtanding he had loſt blood from the arm to ten ounces, which practice, the injury done the brain and membranes will juſtify. Being unable to accompliſh my object, by attempting elevation to the extent mentioned, the trephine was applied four times at thoſe points noticed; and as they were by theſe applications removed from acting on the brain, and the depreſſed piece likewiſe much diſengaged, I judged it time to inſulate by dividing the connection with the parietal bone. On examining the depreſſed piece of bone, I found the internal lamina fractured conically, and projecting from the line of health, and in itſelf capable of acting as a compreſſing cauſe on the brain.* The ſcalp was now returned as nearly as poſſible to its natural ſituation, and the wound covered with light and ſimple dreſſing; he was put into a cot, as admitting more freely the circulation of air round the body, to carry off ſuperfluous heat, than a hammock, and an opiate was adminiſtered. He was laid on his left ſide. This accident happened in the morning; and it is almoſt unneceſſary to ſay, I ſaw

* Even a part of the internal lamina was detached at the point laſt divided.

I saw him repeatedly during the day; at night an anodyne draught was given him, and nothing unpleasant occurred until about twelve o'clock, when I was informed Spencer was in a dangerous way. On visiting I found him much convulsed, with intervals of ease, which caused me to order forty drops of laudanum, and this was repeated within an hour, without producing any good effect. The wound was undressed and examined, and I had the satisfaction to discover the cause of convulsion in this case, in a small fragment of bone lodged partially in the substance of the brain, and which had escaped my notice in dressing the wound. Were not these convulsions proof of returning sensibility? and from which appearance, on taking away the hostile cause, was there not reason to infer more favourably? The removal of this foreign body was soon succeeded by tranquillity, and the following day he was able to give a distinct answer, and name the objects presented to him.

℞. Fol. Sennæ, ʒvj. Crem. tart. ʒj. Fruct. tamarind, ℥j. Aq. font. Bul. ℥viij. Macera. per hor. dein. cap. ℥ij. omni 2ª hor. don. purg.

It would prolong this case to give a detail of his daily treatment. He was kept low while there was any thing to be apprehended from symptomatic fever; opiates combined with sudorifics were given at night, and the wound and bowels regularly attended to. In a month from the date of the accident, the wound was almost completely healed, and he had walked about the sick birth eight days, and been from bed daily for twelve. In this case, the dura as well as pia mater were not only injured, but such was the force of the fall, that part of the brain was forced through the interstices of the fractured bone. The trepan recommended by very eminent authority for commencing this operation, is not a very admissible instrument in operating at sea, where the motion of the ship renders it so difficult to act with steadiness, even with the trephine.

In injuries of the brain, where we suppose every thing required, is done by operating, and that are followed by convulsions, this case may not only offer a strong inducement to examine the wound, in order to discover the cause of these morbid actions, but it points out the propriety of not deserting such accidents as a forlorn hope; because from measurement of the extent of injury the brain has sustained, it will frequently give rise to a mode of reasoning that may deceive the surgeon himself, and lead him to suppose the mischief done his patient is not to be relieved by the resources of his art.

To

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

IN your Journal for October, a caſe of death from the effects of poiſon appeared, communicated by an ingenious gentleman, Mr. Frederic Thackeray, of Emanuel College, Cambridge. Upon peruſing it, I am induced to ſend you the following caſe and diſſection, which, if you think of ſufficient conſequence to be inſerted in a Journal which very deſervedly ranks high in the eſtimation of medical men, from the candour with which it is conducted, and likewiſe from the many valuable facts with which it abounds, all tending to the promotion of the moſt liberal of all ſciences, the ſcience of medicine, it is much at your ſervice; and if it conveys any information, or if it throws any new light upon the effects of poiſons taken into the alimentary canal, it will prove a ſource of no ſmall ſatisfaction to,

GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient and very humble ſervant,

JAMES HUME SPRY,

Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, London.

Alderſgate Street, Oct. 30, 1800.

The ſubject of this caſe was an unfortunate young woman, about 27 years of age. I was deſired to viſit her on Monday the 13th of October, about five o'clock in the afternoon; ſhe was reported to be in fits, to which it ſeems ſhe was occaſionally liable.

She was, when I ſaw her, totally inſenſible, agitated by convulſive motions of the whole frame from head to foot; the muſcles of the eyes were much convulſed, and upon elevating the eye-lids, they were rapidly moved in different directions, according as the ſpaſms affected the different muſcles: the pupils were not in a ſtate of dilatation, but rather contracted; light did not appear to have much effect upon them. A viſcid frothy ſaliva oozed from her mouth, which ſeemed ready to obſtruct her breathing; reſpiration was performed with rapidity; ſhe ſighed frequently, and it ſeemed as if there was great oppreſſion about the heart. She moaned conſtantly, as if in great pain; but gave no evidence of ſenſibility, unleſs preſſure was made upon the pit of the ſtomach, when ſhe moved her hand and arm, as if the preſſure gave pain; this part felt unuſually hot to the hand. She was in a very profuſe perſpiration, which had

had a very faint earthy ſmell; her pulſe was very ſmall and frequent, but varied occaſionally; her ſtools and urine paſſed involuntarily: theſe ſymptoms gradually increaſed, excepting that the convulſive motions ſubſided, as the comatoſe ſymptoms advanced: The following day, about three o'clock in the afternoon, ſhe breathed her laſt, after having ſuffered the moſt dreadful torments.

From the whole appearance of the patient, which was ghaſtly in the extreme, and from the peculiarity of the different ſymptoms, at the ſame time taking into conſideration the perfect health ſhe enjoyed the preceding day, I had no difficulty in pronouncing, that her death was the conſequence of poiſon: When ſhe took it, or what it was ſhe had taken, was not poſſible to be aſcertained correctly; but from her having been obſerved to be in health on Monday morning, previous to my being called in, which did not happen till the afternoon, it was reaſonable to ſuppoſe, that ſome time during the fore part of that day the fatal potion had been taken.

On Wedneſday, the morning after her deceaſe, in preſence of three medical gentlemen, I examined the body, and the morbid appearances were as follow:—

Upon taking a general view of the body, no external mark of diſeaſe was perceived, if we except that ecchymoſis had taken place in various parts of the back, evidently owing to theſe parts being bruiſed during the convulſive paroxyſms. Putrefaction did not appear to have made much progreſs. Upon opening the thorax, the viſcera contained in it were in general ſound and healthy; the lungs remarkably ſo: the pericardium contained a very ſmall quantity of water: the heart appeared perfectly free from diſeaſe; but upon opening the left ventricle, a polypous connection of coagulable lymph extended through the arterial orifice of the ventricle into the aorta. The œſophagus, as it paſſes down the poſterior part of the thorax, was examined, and was remarkably diſeaſed; it ſeemed to have ſuffered the action of ſome very acrid or cauſtic ſubſtance; the inner membrane, or coat, being in many places deſtroyed; in ſome places it appeared of a whitiſh colour, reſembling the ſlough which is produced by argentum nitratum; in others, gangrenous ſpots were ſituated, and extravaſation of blood had taken place in many other places. Upon opening the abdomen, the viſcera appeared healthy in general; the inteſtines were not particularly diſtended by air; neither was there any particular mark of diſeaſe in the external appearance of any of them, excepting the ileum. The ſtomach, when cut into, ſhewed ſimilar marks of diſeaſe with the œſophagus; near

near the cardial orifice, there was a ſmall hole* through the villous and nervous coats; adjacent to this hole were a conſiderable number of ſmall red ſpots, which ſeemed to be extravaſations of blood; theſe ſpots occupied a ſpace of about two ſquare inches; the villous coat was eroded in various places; the lower part of the ſtomach was corrugated in a very remarkable manner; (the corrugations were not much unlike the valvulæ conniventes in the ſmall inteſtines) the blood veſſels of this viſcus were not much diſtended; the ſtomach contained about four ounces of a thick viſcid matter, of a dark green colour; the duodenum, jejunum, and ſuperior part of the ileum, were not viſibly diſeaſed; the lower portion of the laſt mentioned inteſtine, for the ſpace of three feet, was very much diſeaſed, both externally and internally; the ſmall veſſels on the ſurface were much diſtended with blood, and appeared as if finely injected. Internally, the villous coat was entirely deſtroyed; the contents of this portion of the ileum were much tinged with blood, from the blood veſſels of the inteſtine being eroded; immediately below that portion of the ileum which was moſt diſeaſed, and between ſeven and eight inches from the valve of the colon, an intus-ſuſceptio was found; and about four inches below it was a ſecond. The effects of the poiſon were not viſible below the ileum; the large inteſtines ſeemed quite in their natural ſtate; the remainder of the abdominal viſcera were perfectly free from any morbid affection whatever: the uterus was unimpregnated.

The contents of the ſtomach and inteſtines were of a ſimilar nature; and I very much lament, that all the experiments which were made to aſcertain the nature of the ſubſtance, or poiſon, which had been ſwallowed, proved abortive.

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

I Have read with pleaſure in your uſeful Journal the various proofs which have been adduced in ſupport of the benefits likely to acrue to the community by the introduction of VACCINE INOCULATION.

But, although willing to allow the new practice the merit of

* This hole, or ulceration, was ſufficiently large to admit a pea.

of inducing a more mild diſeaſe than that which variolous inoculation, with all its improvements, can *always* promiſe; yet, it occurs to me, that the ſuperiority of vaccine over variolous inoculation, is ſomewhat over-rated, when *it alone* is aſſerted to be incapable of producing infection, except by actual contact.

This ſuperiority will not, perhaps, on a ſtrict examination, be found to obtain. The common prejudice, that variolous inoculation gives origin to a contagious diſeaſe, or is itſelf contagious, it may not be impoſſible to remove.

The improved variolous inoculation would have been more extenſively uſeful, had it not been for this objection, which has been propagated with ſome other objections, which it has ſurvived, by medical perſons of this country and century.

The other objections to the practice of inoculating ſmall-pox have, in a great meaſure, been long ſince abandoned by men of the ſame claſs with thoſe with whom they originated, — I allude to the ideas of the danger to be apprehended from a double infection; the great danger of communicating with the variolous matter, ſcrofulous and other diſeaſes; and the inſecurity which it has been ſaid the practice afforded; inſtances having every now and then, during its infancy, been related, of perſons having natural ſmall-pox after a previous inoculation.

Theſe objections, I ſay, to variolous inoculation, are given up by profeſſional men; but the other, the contagious nature of the diſeaſe induced by this inoculation, is ſtill entertained by many men of eminence in the profeſſion.

It would have been fortunate for mankind, and particularly ſo for the inhabitants of the cities of London and Weſtminſter, and the places adjacent, if the poor multitude would have parted with their prejudices, relative to variolous inoculation, and which they had imbibed from their ſuperiors in knowledge, at the time when the latter could have wiſhed: But they have neither been ſo complaiſant to others, or ſo friendly to themſelves.

Practitioners who are reſident in the above places, know very well, that when ſmall-pox is in a houſe where there are many children and adults liable to the diſeaſe, the propoſal to inoculate, gratuitouſly, all thoſe who are not exempt, is too often diſregarded by themſelves or relations.

It is in vain that we expoſtulate in theſe ſituations, and endeavour to convince them of the non-exiſtence of a double infection, or of an accumulation of diſeaſe; for the contrary opinion is too firmly impreſſed to be eaſily obliterated.

Were it not on account of this unhappy perſuaſion, which, it would ſeem, cannot be parted with by the loweſt claſs of

 people,

people, together with the no lefs unfortunate one, exifting ftill in the minds of well-informed men, namely, that the variolous inoculation is contagious, the Bills of Mortality would exhibit a far lefs number of deaths from fmall-pox than they have heretofore done; inafmuch as in ninety-nine inftances in every hundred, we fhould be able to anticipate the cafual fmall-pox, which probably would prove fatal in a great number of cafes, by the production of a difeafe fo mild in its operation, as in a general way to occafion little or no inconvenience under a judicious mode of treatment.

But experience has proved, that fometimes, and under the moft judicious management, an adverfe cafe will prefent. Vaccine inoculation is recommended to the public as a fubftitute, not, as I apprehend becaufe no adverfe cafe has ever occurred, or will ever occur, but, becaufe the number of thefe is likely, from our prefent experience, to be confiderably lefs than from the variolous.

Now, as few phyficians would affert pofitively, that no unfavourable event can poffibly happen from an employment of the fubftitute, parents may be found who poffibly may obferve, we are not anxious to have an unneceffary difeafe, obtruded on our progeny to which they are not obnoxious; as from the evidence which we have of the fafety of the variolous inoculation, we fhall prefer the human to the vaccine difeafe. That the fubftitution of a difeafe of brute origin will meet with oppofition from fome perfons is apparent; for Dr. Waterhoufe finds it neceffary in America to change the name of it. The Doctor has obferved, that people revolt at the term Cow-pox.*

I fhall not, I imagine, be fufpected by any of your readers, of an intention to create prejudices in the minds of the common people againft the new inoculation, while I make my obfervations on it, through the medium of a vehicle with which they are unacquainted. If this inoculation be readily accepted by the public, as a fubftitute for the former, or with the view of exemption from cafual fmall-pox, it will meet with a more favourable reception than the other has done; and a favourable reception it ought to meet with, or the fanguine expectations of fome writers on the fubject will never be realifed.

I have faid that the fuperiority of vaccine over variolous inoculation is fomewhat over-rated, when it is afferted, that *it*

* See Med. and Phys. Journal, No. XXI. p. 471.

it alone is incapable of communicating infection through the medium of the atmosphere.

"The small-pox are chiefly destructive to the poor; the rich, for the most part, secure their children from the casual small-pox by inoculation; but this is done at the risk of their less intelligent neighbours. Thus an operation which confers an invaluable blessing on the few intelligent individuals who adopt it, becomes injurious to the less intelligent part of the community. Humanity calls aloud on us to substitute a disease that brings security to those who seek it, and spreads danger to none."†

Thus is the character of the one inoculation magnified at the expence of the other. It would be taking up too large a portion of your publication at present, to prosecute the intended enquiry, whether this charge which has been made against the variolous inoculation, be well or ill founded. But should you be of opinion that these remarks are not altogether irrelevant, and give them a place in the next Number, I will endeavour to send you a communication for a future one; to evince that the above charge is without foundation. I am,

GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient humble servant,

JOHN FRANKS.

Smith Street, Westminster,
November 7, 1800.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

I Enclose you a further statement of the result of my practice with the Fox-glove in Pulmonary Consumption. It has, hitherto, answered all my expectations; and I am every day more and more convinced of the decisive salutary powers which this medicine exerts over a disease which has, until very lately, baffled all the efforts of our art.

Conscious of the rectitude of my intentions, and of the accuracy with which my details have been given to the public, I will press forward, totally regardless of what *petulance* and *ve* may scatter in my path.

To the objections of any individual, when proposed with liberality and in the spirit of improvement, I am ever ready to listen

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† Vide Dr. Cappe on the Cow-pox, No. XXI. p. 438.

people, together with the no leſs unfortunate one, exiſting ſtill in the minds of well-informed men, namely, that the variolous inoculation is contagious, the Bills of Mortality would exhibit a far leſs number of deaths from ſmall-pox than they have heretofore done; inaſmuch as in ninety-nine inſtances in every hundred, we ſhould be able to anticipate the caſual ſmall-pox, which probably would prove fatal in a great number of caſes, by the production of a diſeaſe ſo mild in its operation, as in a general way to occaſion little or no inconvenience under a judicious mode of treatment.

But experience has proved, that ſometimes, and under the moſt judicious management, an adverſe caſe will preſent. Vaccine inoculation is recommended to the public as a ſubſtitute, not, as I apprehend becauſe no adverſe caſe has ever occurred, or will ever occur,- but, becauſe the number of theſe is likely, from our preſent experience, to be conſiderably leſs than from the variolous.

Now, as few phyſicians would aſſert poſitively, that no unfavourable event can poſſibly happen from an employment of the ſubſtitute, parents may be found who poſſibly may obſerve, we are not anxious to have an unneceſſary diſeaſe, obtruded on our progeny to which they are not obnoxious; as from the evidence which we have of the ſafety of the variolous inoculation, we ſhall prefer the human to the vaccine diſeaſe. That the ſubſtitution of a diſeaſe of brute origin will meet with oppoſition from ſome perſons is apparent; for Dr. Waterhouſe finds it neceſſary in America to change the name of it. The Doctor has obſerved, that people revolt at the term Cow-pox.*

I ſhall not, I imagine, be ſuſpected by any of your readers, of an intention to create prejudices in the minds of the common people againſt the new inoculation, while I make my obſervations on it, through the medium of a vehicle with which they are unacquainted. If this inoculation be readily accepted by the public, as a ſubſtitute for the former, or with the view of exemption from caſual ſmall-pox, it will meet with a more favourable reception than the other has done; and a favourable reception it ought to meet with, or the ſanguine expectations of ſome writers on the ſubject will never be realiſed.

I have ſaid that the ſuperiority of vaccine over variolous inoculation is ſomewhat over-rated, when it is aſſerted, that it

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* See Med. and Phys. Journal, No. XXI. p. 471.

it alone is incapable of communicating infection through the medium of the atmosphere.

"The small-pox are chiefly destructive to the poor; the rich, for the most part, secure their children from the casual small-pox by inoculation; but this is done at the risk of their less intelligent neighbours. Thus an operation which confers an invaluable blessing on the few intelligent individuals who adopt it, becomes injurious to the less intelligent part of the community. Humanity calls aloud on us to substitute a disease that brings security to those who seek it, and spreads danger to none."†

Thus is the character of the one inoculation magnified at the expence of the other. It would be taking up too large a portion of your publication at present, to prosecute the intended enquiry, whether this charge which has been made against the variolous inoculation, be well or ill founded. But should you be of opinion that these remarks are not altogether irrelevant, and give them a place in the next Number, I will endeavour to send you a communication for a future one; to evince that the above charge is without foundation. I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient humble servant,

JOHN FRANKS.

Smith Street, Westminster,
November 7, 1800.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

Gentlemen,

I Enclose you a further statement of the result of my practice with the Fox-glove in Pulmonary Consumption. It has, hitherto, answered all my expectations; and I am every day more and more convinced of the decisive salutary powers which this medicine exerts over a disease which has, until very lately, baffled all the efforts of our art.

Conscious of the rectitude of my intentions, and of the accuracy with which my details have been given to the public, I shall press forward, totally regardless of what *petulance* and *abuse* may scatter in my path.

To the objections of any individual, when proposed with liberality and in the spirit of improvement, I am ever ready to listen

† Vide Dr. Cappe on the Cow-pox, No. XXI. p. 438.

liſten with deference and attention; but *mere ſcurrility* neither merits nor admits of a reply. I am,

GENTLEMEN,

With great reſpect,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

NATHAN DRAKE.

Hadleigh, Suffolk
November 6, 1800.

My views in publiſhing the two caſes of Marris and of Grimes, were to arouſe the attention of the medical world to the ſingular and hitherto unobſerved powers of the Fox-glove in conſumption; by this mean, a body of evidence, either for or againſt the utility of the medicine, might ſhortly be expected. The Digitalis had previouſly been exhibited in this complaint but in very few inſtances; thoſe recorded by Dr. Darwin being the only caſes, I believe, known to the public; and in theſe, the plant was exhibited merely with the view of promoting temporary ſickneſs and conſequent abſorption.

My intentions in preſcribing the Fox-glove in phthiſis were, however, widely different; and the reſult of the trial evinced an energy equally novel and unexpected. It was my wiſh to produce its full influence on the circulating ſyſtem, and this too, gradually and independent either of nauſea or ſickneſs, yet productive of rapid abſorption: Theſe objects I obtained; and in effecting them, diſcovered, that by a cautious uſe of the ſaturated tincture, the circulation might not only be depreſſed, and that to a very conſiderable degree, but for any given length of time, and without much inconvenience, or any danger to the patient. Two gentlemen labouring under confirmed phthiſis were, under this plan, completely cured; and I thought it my duty to announce to the world, as ſoon as poſſible, events ſo unexpectedly fortunate. I alſo ventured to draw from the reſult of theſe two caſes, the following inference, that as the Digitalis had re-eſtabliſhed health in the moſt confirmed ſtate of phthiſis, it might, in its earlieſt ſtage, be expected *generally* to prove ſucceſsful.*

That I have acted thus; that I have publiſhed theſe caſes, and drawn this inference, is to me, in the preſent ſtage of my experience with the Fox-glove, a matter of the higheſt ſelf congratulation. To ſtate this experience, forms the principal object of the preſent paper; but, before I enter upon it, it will be neceſſary to premiſe a few obſervations.

I have been for near ten years in the habit of preſcribing the powder

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* Vide Contributions to Phyſical and Medical Knowledge.

powder of Digitalis in anaſarcous caſes; my friend and predeceſſor, Dr. Gibbons, for better than fifteen: Our experience has taught us, that, although it will ſometimes ſtrongly influence the circulation, independent of any action on the ſtomach, yet it is very apt, even in the moſt guarded doſes, to produce exceſſive nauſea and ſickneſs, effects very frequently uſeful, and even neceſſary in promoting its diuretic action: As, however, to induce this action was no object in my view, and as I particularly wiſhed to avoid its effects on the ſtomach, and at the ſame time to introduce it gradually, and for a long period into the ſyſtem, I choſe the ſaturated tincture as the preferable preparation; and as this has anſwered all my expectations, I have not been tempted, except in one inſtance, which will be mentioned hereafter, to exchange it for any other.

Even the ſaturated tincture will too frequently affect the ſtomach, if not given in the moſt cautious manner; and I have obſerved, without a ſingle exception in *my* practice, that ſickneſs has uniformly been pernicious to the patient, and has ever interrupted the progreſs of the cure. To obviate this, I have lately given the tincture in ſo very gradual a manner, that the patient uſually takes it a fortnight or longer, before any deciſive effects are felt on the ſyſtem. I increaſe the doſe but by one drop per day, or at moſt, by one drop per doſe; and I have now a patient under my care who is taking eighty-eight drops daily, and who, for theſe laſt three months, has taken from fifty to this quantity per day, without even the ſmalleſt nauſea, and without any affection of the head, which could be termed troubleſome, although his pulſe, which, before the uſe of the tincture, beat about 100 ſtrokes in the minute, has been during this period never, upon the average, above 60; once as low as 36, frequently not more than 50.

I continue to uſe the ſaturated tincture made in the proportion of five ounces of proof ſpirit to one ounce of the coarſely powdered leaves. A few ounces of what was made laſt year are ſtill in my poſſeſſion; not the leaſt depoſition has taken place, and the colour is as deep, and the tranſparency as great, as when the tincture was firſt filtered.

This year I have gathered, along with Meſſrs. Travis and Bunn, a large quantity of the plant; and as we had an immenſe variety to ſelect from, we choſe only the fineſt ſpecimens, and, I believe, brought home none under the height of five feet; a great number was, I am convinced, more than ſix feet high, ſome much higher; the talleſt plant, and in every reſpect the fineſt, from the number of its lateral branches and the multiplicity of its leaves, meaſured, when freſh gathered and independent of its root, ſeven feet ten inches. The moſt vigorous

vigorous plants we have obſerved invariably to grow where the deepeſt ſhade is afforded them; and this might be expected indeed, excluſive of individual authority, from the ſituation the Digitalis holds in the natural order of the Linnæan ſyſtem, the Luridæ. Under this arrangement it has for *Congenera* the *Solanum Lethale*, the *Hyoſcyamus*, *Datura*, &c. plants well known to thrive only beneath the protection of much ſhelter.

In the 8th Number of this Journal I have mentioned, that no opportunity of exhibiting the Digitalis in incipient tubercular conſumption had, at that time, occurred to me. Since that period, however, I have attended four patients previous to the commencement of the ſuppurative proceſs, and ſix in whom a copious purulent expectoration had for ſome time been eſtabliſhed. I now proceed to ſtate theſe caſes and their reſult, to which I ſhall occaſionally ſubjoin a few obſervations.

Case I. *Martha Howlett*, of Dedham, Eſſex, aged 28, has been ſubject to a violent cough for two years, and has now, March 29, 1800, when ſhe applied to me, a pulſe beating 120 in the minute. Her expectoration amounts to about a tea-cup full in twenty-four hours, but has no purulent appearance; her breathing is very difficult, and ſhe has had for ſome months profuſe colliquative perſpiration; her cough is almoſt perpetual, and her emaciation is very great: ſhe complains of cold ſhivering fits, and of being frequently fluſhed after her meals; appetite gone; great languor; thirſt conſiderable, but the tongue not foul; body regular; menſes regular; urine of a natural colour; ſleep much diſturbed.

I ordered her ten drops of the tincture of Digitalis twice a day; and in a letter to her ſurgeon, Mr. Fox, of Dedham, requeſted they might be gradually increaſed. On the 31ſt of May, 1800, I received a letter from Mr. Fox, from which I have taken the liberty of extracting the following paſſage:

" I have purpoſely delayed giving you an account of Martha Howlett, until I could offer you my congratulations on the ſucceſs of the Digitalis you preſcribed for her.

" The pulſe now continues ſteadily under 60; her cough has nearly ceaſed; her breathing is free and eaſy; and her appetite and ſtrength appear reſtored to their healthy ſtandard; a tendency to ſyncope, however, and ſome depreſſion of animal power, rendered neceſſary a retrogade doſe in the exhibition of the Digitalis. I have not yet been able to adminiſter more than fifty drops in the twenty-four hours. I now give her only thirty every night; but which I mean again to advance, until the cough has totally ceaſed.

" But, to do you proper juſtice, I have ſent her, that you may judge for yourſelf. Indeed, I have no doubt whatever

that

that the Digitalis has thus far removed a malady, whose formidable degree gave me every reason, from observation of past events, to believe that death would, as usual, soon inevitably have finished the scene."

I agreed with Mr. Fox in the propriety of again increasing the dose of Digitalis; and in a subsequent letter he informs me, that "he could never exceed thirty-five drops twice a day, and that but for a very short time; thirty, twice a day, was the usual dose, which she continued TEN weeks; her pulse was never depressed much below 60."

Towards the latter end of August I called upon her, and was happy to find her restored to full vigour and health, free from every complaint except an hoarseness, which she had acquired a week or two before I saw her, by exposure to cold in washing.

CASE II. *Miss Bridgman*, aged 27, of ——, near Diss, in Norfolk, has for several years been subject to a very great, constant, and almost singular rapidity of circulation, her pulse usually beating from 120 to 130 strokes in the minute; she has likewise had for several years a most troublesome and very frequent cough, attended with great difficulty of breathing upon motion. There has never been any expectoration, but the prostration of strength and the emaciation are extreme; the nightly perspirations also are frequent, but not very copious; she has little or no appetite, and has lately been subject to diarrhœa, which is now only checked by the use of opiates. Menses deficient. She has had the advice of many eminent practitioners.

Shortly after her arrival at Hadleigh she was placed under my care, and I ordered her, on April 19, 1800, ten drops of the tincture of Digitalis twice a day, in a slight infusion of quassia and cinnamon, and an opiate pill at bed-time. The tincture was cautiously increased for two-and-twenty days, until the quantity taken in twenty-four hours amounted to fifty-two drops, and the pulse gradually, during this period, fell to 80.

Under the exhibition of the Digitalis, languor and occasional nausea were felt; and, at length, when the pulse had dropped to 80, so much tendency to syncope took place immediately after each dose, that I thought it necessary to discontinue the tincture. The cough, however, had been for some time much better; the irritation was greatly mitigated; the appetite increased, and the strength evidently improved; nor did her pulse, upon the omission of the Fox-glove, acquire its former velocity, though it rose much beyond the healthy standard.

I now prescribed for her a preparation of cinchona, myrrh, and prepared kali, in the form of a draught, twice or thrice a day;

day; and after each dose she was directed to take a table spoonful of lemon-juice. This agreed very well; her appetite became keen, and the powers of muscular motion increased. In this situation she returned home, and I requested her surgeon, Mr. Harrison, of Diss in Norfolk, to resume the Digitalis as soon as her strength should be so far improved as to admit of its being safely tried. This gentleman wrote to me occasionally; and his last letter, dated October 7, includes the following satisfactory account:—

"I am particularly happy in communicating to you Miss Bridgman's amendment, which has taken place since her commencement with the Digitalis, (TEN weeks since): for the last three weeks she has taken thirty drops twice a day; no unpleasant symptoms have occurred from it; I have not found the pulse more than eighty for this last month, twice in that period not quite so many; from increase of bodily strength, she is able to take more exercise, and without fatigue; her cough is less troublesome, her breathing less laborious, and her appetite good, with every symptom of increased health.

"November the 5th. I have this day heard from Miss Bridgman, through the medium of her brother; she continues the Digitalis, which she has now taken FOURTEEN weeks; her health has progressively improved since October the 7th."

The very rapid, constant, and long continued quickness of circulation is, in this case, most remarkable; I could not have previously conceived, that a pulse of near 120 could, for so extended a period, have been compatible with life; nor did I think the Digitalis would have exerted an influence so decided and salutary, where the circulating system had been so long habituated to movements of such unusual velocity.

CASE III. *Sarah Hammond*, aged 17, complains, June 13, 1800, of great difficulty of breathing, great stricture across the chest, and of pain in her left side; pulse near 120, skin hot, thirst not considerable; has cold shivering fits twice a day, and copious colliquative perspirations toward morning; has little appetite; her strength is much impaired, and the emaciation considerable; not much cough, and no expectoration; tongue foul, and of a brown colour; body very costive. The catamenia have not appeared for three months. She has been twice attacked with similar symptoms, which were removed, under the care of Mr. Travis of Bergholt, by tonics and preparations of steel. She has lost a sister in consumption, whom I attended some years ago.

Mr. Travis, when called in on June 13, ordered her, in the first place, a purging draught, then a saline mixture with myrrh,

myrrh, and afterwards some tonic pills with steel; she had also a blister on her side, and was bled; the blood appeared sizy.

As no benefit was derived from this plan, he ordered her, on June 30, seven drops of the saturated tincture of Digitalis thrice a day; these were gradually increased to sixteen thrice a day, and she was under the influence of the medicine for a month. During this period her symptoms gradually disappeared, and her pulse sunk to the standard of health. She experienced no sickness, nausea, or giddiness of the head, but complained of being frequently very sleepy.

For the particulars of this Case I am chiefly indebted to Mr. Travis, as I had an opportunity of seeing the patient but once. On September 2, she was, in all respects, perfectly well.

Case IV. *Mrs. Salmon*, of St. Osyth, came to Hadleigh on October 2, 1800, to consult Dr. Gibbons and myself. She has been subject for several months to a violent and frequent cough, with considerable difficulty of breathing and profuse colliquative perspirations; has frequent shivering fits. There are much emaciation and great debility present. Pulse 124, and weak; skin hot; body regular; urine natural; appetite nearly gone; no expectoration.

We ordered her ten drops of the tincture of Digitalis twice a day, in an infusion of quassia and orange-peel, to be gradually increased to twenty, morning and evening.

October 21st. Though only nineteen days have elapsed, nearly all her symptoms have disappeared, and her countenance has the appearance of health. We have seldom witnessed a more rapid amendment. Her pulse beats but 66 in the minute, and her breathing is perfectly easy. The cough is gone; the perspirations are removed; the appetite is keen; the strength greatly improved, and she takes ample exercise daily without fatigue. Has felt some giddiness and tremor after taking each dose of the medicine, but no nausea.

Of these four Cases of incipient phthisis, the first, the second, and the fourth, I consider as examples of phthisis scrophulosa; the third, an instance of phthisis chlorotica. With regard to the second case, though I am convinced, from every symptom, that tubercles had long existed in the lungs, yet I am of opinion, had the Digitalis not been interposed, and the disease had been suffered to run its course, that the purulent stage would, nevertheless, not have supervened, but that the patient would have been gradually worn down by the continued rapidity of the circulation, and the increasing cough and difficulty of breathing.

 I now

I now proceed to thoſe caſes in which the purulent ſtage had been for ſome time eſtabliſhed.

Case V. *Anne Bush*, of Dedham, aged 28. May 14th, 1800; has been ill for ſix months, and during that period, gradually getting worſe; ſhe complains now of great difficulty of breathing, of violent cough, and of acute darting pain in her left ſide; her pulſe is weak, and beats 110 ſtrokes in the minute; ſhe has had for ſeveral weeks a heavy purulent expectoration, amounting to about half a pint in twenty-four hours; has frequent ſhivering fits, and copious colliquative perſpirations: the leaſt exertion exhauſts her, and ſhe is reduced to a mere ſhadow; thirſt conſiderable; appetite nearly gone; ſkin dry and hot; and ſhe is much fluſhed in an evening; her menſes have been for ſome time ſuppreſſed.

I ordered her eight drops of the ſaturated tincture twice a day, and theſe were ſoon increaſed to twenty per day; but the morning doſe then occaſioning ſome giddineſs, I requeſted the twenty drops might be given only at night. She never reached more than thirty drops per night, but the effect upon the circulating ſyſtem was great and permanent. On the 31ſt of May, her ſurgeon, Mr. Fox, informs me by letter: "Your patient, Anne Buſh, I conſider much better; her circulation is much ſlower, and the cough leſs. I have not been able to give her more than twenty drops in twenty-four hours, which I now give at night, as you directed." Soon after this period ſhe increaſed her drops to thirty; but on the 7th of July, Mr. F. tells me, "I have lowered the doſe of Digitalis to twenty-five drops every night, as your patient has complained of much giddineſs. Her cough and expectoration are now but little, and her circulation ſteadily at or under 60; but the pain in her ſide is ſtill troubleſome, notwithſtanding repeated bliſters; I therefore recommended her to ſee you once more."

I directed an iſſue to be cut in her ſide, the diſcharge from which, in a ſhort time, relieved her pain. She was under the influence of the Digitalis for SEVEN weeks; and ſhe took it, latterly, in decoction of bark, making uſe at the ſame time of a generous diet. She is now, Auguſt 30th, 1800, perfectly well, with a pulſe of 68. I ſaw her during this period ſix times. She experienced, though the quantity of tincture was ever ſmall, a conſiderable degree of languor and much giddineſs, and had uſually an intermitting pulſe.

Case VI. June, 1800. *Anne Hart*, aged 16, has a copious purulent expectoration, amounting to better than half a pint per day; pulſe 128, ſmall and weak; night ſweats profuſe; cough violent, with great palpitation of the heart and difficulty

of

of breathing; complains of ſhivering fits morning and evening; ſkin hot, body regular, thirſt conſiderable, appetite totally deſtroyed, emaciation extreme, and debility ſo great as to be generally confined to her bed. Has never menſtruated.

Her ſymptoms aſſumed a very ſerious aſpect in December 1799, at which period ſhe was ordered, by Mr. Travis of Bergholt, a mixture with myrrh and ſteel, which ſhe continued until February 27, 1800, with ſome benefit; but on April 5th, her complaints having returned with increaſed violence, he gave her the tincture of Digitalis in very ſmall doſes, which in a ſhort time mitigated, and for a few weeks nearly ſuſpended, the moſt preſſing and dangerous ſymptoms; ſhe relapſed, however, toward the latter end of May; and in June I ſaw her labouring under the circumſtances above deſcribed.

I requeſted ſhe might reſume the Digitalis, and continue it ſteadily for ſeveral weeks. She began with five drops three times a day, which were very cautiouſly increaſed to eleven three times a day, the greateſt number ſhe could ever take without ſickneſs.

July, 1800. She has taken the tincture for near five weeks, and appears to me greatly relieved by it, and her ſtrength is ſo much increaſed that ſhe has been able to walk to Mr. Travis's to meet me. Pulſe 100. Ordered to continue the tincture.

September, 1800. Met her again at Mr. Travis's; ſhe has regularly taken the tincture ſince July; her pulſe is now only 90, and has never, I underſtand, dropped lower; cough entirely removed; expectoration has for ſeveral weeks diſappeared; has had no perſpirations for a month; appetite good; ſleeps well; body regular; ſkin cool; ſtrength improving; but has gained little fleſh.

November 3d, 1800. She is now ſo much altered for the better in her perſonal appearance, that it was with ſome difficulty I recollected her. She is free from every complaint, and her ſtrength and fleſh are perfectly reſtored. Pulſe 64. She has not taken any Digitalis for this month paſt.

Case VII. *Mr. Hollick*, of Stratford, aged 22, labours under a frequent and very troubleſome cough, attended with an expectoration evidently purulent, and amounting to about a tea-cup full in twenty-four hours. Pulſe near 100; great emaciation; much debility; colliquative perſpirations towards morning; complains of pain and uneaſineſs in the cheſt, but not of much difficulty of breathing, except upon motion; little thirſt; tongue clean; appetite much impaired; ſkin hot; body regular; urine natural; ſleep diſturbed; frequent ſhivering fits: Theſe ſymptoms acquired their preſent alarming growth in about three months.

My

My advice was requeſted on July 25, 1800, when I ordered him ten drops of the ſaturated tincture of Digitalis night and morning; at firſt in an infuſion of quaſſia, afterwards in an ounce and a half of the decoction of cinchona with two drachms of the tincture of orange-peel, and occaſionally with the addition of a few drops of the nitric acid, and a ſlight opiate at bed time. The following dates denote the days on which I viſited him, between which his ſurgeon ſaw him daily, and paid him the moſt marked attention; to this gentleman, indeed, I am particularly indebted for the ſkillful manner in which, during my abſence, he increaſed or diminiſhed the quantity of the Digitalis, according to circumſtances.

Auguſt 2, 1800. Doſe of Digitalis increaſed to forty drops per day. Pulſe 48, ſoft and ſteady; ſkin cooler; cough not ſo troubleſome; in other reſpects as before. He has no affection of the ſtomach or head. Ordered to live generouſly, to take a few glaſſes of Port wine after dinner, and to take gentle exerciſe every day on horſeback.

Auguſt 9th. Digitalis increaſed to fifty-four drops daily; the pulſe has riſen, beating 60, ſoft, and with occaſional intermiſſion; no nauſea or giddineſs; expectoration rather decreaſed; cough much leſs; ſkin perfectly cool; perſpirations trifling; appetite improved.

Auguſt 16th. Digitalis increaſed to ſixty drops; pulſe 68, and ſlightly intermitting; expectoration diminiſhed; very little cough; appetite good; ſleep undiſturbed; perſpirations removed; takes ſix glaſſes of Port wine and a bottle of cyder daily, and rides out every afternoon two miles on horſeback.

23d. Doſe of Digitalis per day ſixty drops; pulſe 70; expectoration increaſed again to a tea-cup full, and very purulent; appetite continues good; no nauſea or giddineſs; takes ten glaſſes of wine daily; no perſpirations, and not much cough. Ordered the tincture of Digitalis to be increaſed.

30th. Doſe of Digitalis ſeventy-two drops; pulſe 60, and intermitting; expectoration again diminiſhing; ſtrength not decreaſed; takes a bottle of Port wine per day, and rides out as uſual.

September 6th. Doſe of Digitalis ſeventy-ſix drops; pulſe 58, intermitting; expectoration ſtill continues purulent, and with regard to quantity ſtationary; appetite good; ſkin perfectly cool, though taking better than a bottle of wine daily; complains of pain in his ſide, which appears to be merely muſcular. Ordered a volatile liniment to be applied to the pained part.

13th. Doſe of Digitalis 80 drops; pulſe 54; expectoration much diminiſhed; cough nearly gone; pain of the ſide removed;

moved; feels himſelf ſtronger; breathing eaſy; ſkin cool; continues his wine; appetite as uſual.

20th. Doſe of Digitalis as before; pulſe 56; expectoration nearly removed, and no longer purulent; cough gone; takes a bottle and a half of Port wine per day; ſkin cool; complains of ſinking and languor, which are relieved by taking wine frequently; requeſted to do ſo whenever theſe ſenſations recur; ſtrength improving, and rides out much further without fatigue; has five drops of tinctura opii in each draught.

October 9th. Since September 20th, his pulſe has riſen to more than 70; and his expectoration returning, the tincture was again increaſed, the doſe being now 88 drops; pulſe 48, and intermitting; expectoration about a table ſpoonful; has gained ſince my laſt viſit ſome fleſh, and his ſtrength is greater; but now complains of a ſenſation of twiſting in his bowels after each doſe of his medicine, and of much ſinking at the pit of his ſtomach; takes two bottles of Port wine per day; ſkin cool; his head not in the leaſt affected by the wine; appetite good; body regular; no perſpirations; no pain; no cough; no nauſea; no giddineſs; rides out as uſual.

October 23d. Doſe of Digitalis eighty-eight drops per day; pulſe 58 and regular when laid upon his couch, but much accelerated upon motion; no cough; breathing perfectly eaſy; expectoration not a table ſpoonful, and little if at all purulent; uneaſy ſenſation in his bowels removed; no perſpirations; appetite not quite ſo good as on October 9th; took yeſterday near three bottles of Port wine; ſtrength and appearance as at the laſt viſit; body regular; ſkin cool; ſpirits very good; no nauſea; no giddineſs. Ordered to continue the Digitalis, and to take a little nitric acid in each draught.

November 3d. Since Oct. 23 his pulſe has ſunk to 36, and the intermiſſion being alarming, the Digitalis was omitted for two days, and then reſumed at the rate of twenty drops morning and evening; the doſe is now ſixty drops per day, viz. thirty morning and evening; pulſe 64, ſoft and regular when laid upon his couch, but intermitting, though not accelerated, upon motion. On the reduction of the Digitalis no neceſſity was found for the quantity of wine he had been accuſtomed to; he now takes only one bottle per day. He experienced no ſickneſs even under the great depreſſion above mentioned. Expectoration about a table ſpoonful; ſtrength and appearance as on Oct. 23; ſkin cool; ſpirits good. Ordered to continue the Digitalis.

This very inſtructive caſe, whoſe termination I muſt now leave open, but which ſhall be communicated in a future Number, proves what a conſiderable degree of ſtimulus may be borne

borne with safety and utility, when the system is under the full influence of the Digitalis. Not only whilst taking two bottles of wine per day was the pulse unaltered, and beating but between 50 and 60 strokes in the minute, but the skin also remained perfectly cool, nor was he at any time flushed, nor was his head in the least affected.

Before he commenced the use of the Fox-glove a single glass of wine flushed him, and his appetite was nearly gone; his cough was violent; his expectoration considerable; his night sweats profuse; his pulse quick; the uneasiness in his chest much, and his sleep greatly disturbed.

He is now, November, 1800, free from fever; his pulse being now, and having been for near three months, upon the average, but 60 in the minute; his appetite is good, and two bottles of wine per day neither heat him nor affect his head; his cough is gone; his purulent expectoration a mere trifle; his breathing easy; his perspirations completely removed; his sleep sound; and he has neither pain, sickness, nor giddiness; he rides out every day; and his spirits are, and have been, whilst taking the medicine, perfectly good and equal.

Notwithstanding, however, this favourable change, some symptoms, indicative of danger, remain; his expectoration, though greatly diminished, still continues; he gains little flesh, and there is much debility; and frequently much acceleration of his pulse on motion. In this state of the disease, I do not choose to commit myself by presuming to predict the event.

CASE VIII. *Mr. Smith*, of Semer, aged 50. September, 1799, has a very copious purulent expectoration, a violent cough, and profuse colliquative perspirations; strength so much diminished as to be confined to his bed; pulse 100. He has been ill better than two months, and has lost two sisters and a brother by the complaint: he has taken the tincture of Digitalis, under the care of his surgeon, Mr. Growse, of Bildeston, and reached ninety drops per day, forty-five morning and evening, when his pulse had sunk from 100 to 50 strokes in the minute, without any consequent giddiness, and with very little nausea. He continued the Digitalis for three weeks, during the latter part of which, his expectoration, Mr. Growse informs me, was much decreased, and his cough greatly better; his perspirations were less copious, and he acquired so much strength, as to get down stairs and take some exercise: at this period he left off the medicine, complaining greatly of the languor it produced. In four weeks after, however, his former symptoms returned; and when I first saw him, he had resumed the tincture by Mr. Growse's direction, which I ordered to be increased

increaſed gradually, until the pulſe ſhould again drop to 50 in the minute, and to be kept at that ſtandard for ſome weeks; it was taken in an infuſion of quaſſia, along with ſome tincture of myrrh.

By the commencement of October, 1799, the pulſe was again reduced to 50, accompanied by much languor and ſenſe of faintneſs, but with no vomiting or giddineſs; the appetite was improved, the circulation had no intermiſſion, the expectoration too was much diminiſhed, and the cough leſs frequent.

In this ſtate he refuſed any longer to continue the medicine, notwithſtanding our repeated and earneſt ſolicitations, affirming he would rather die than endure again the languor he had experienced: I viſited him thrice, ſolely with the view of inducing him to perſevere, but in vain. What would have been the reſult, had he ſubmitted to our wiſhes, I cannot pretend to ſay; it is probable it might have been unfavourable; but, as independent of the Digitalis, he had no chance of recovery, and though exciting unpleaſant feelings, it had been productive of no dangerous ſymptoms, but had already, on the contrary, exerted a decided ſalutary power; I thought it my duty to urge a longer trial. He lived, I believe, three or four months after relinquiſhing the Fox-glove.

I have been the more particular in this caſe, as it affords a ſtrong example of what obſtacles ſometimes oppoſe the exhibition of this medicine. There is no arguing againſt ſenſation; and it were much to be wiſhed, that either ſome corrective were diſcovered, or ſome ſubſtitute of equal power over the heart and arteries, yet ſtript of the tendency to affect the head and ſtomach. I have reaſon to believe, however, from the caſe of Mr. Hollick, that by exhibiting the tincture of Digitalis in the moſt gradual manner, ſo as to habituate the ſyſtem to its action, theſe troubleſome conſequences may be altogether ſuperſeded, and the circulation, notwithſtanding, brought fully under its influence. The caſes too of Marris, Grimes, and Ames, are in confirmation of this idea.

Case IX. *Mrs. Green*, of Hadleigh, aged 20, was attacked many months ago with violent cough, great difficulty of breathing, and ſlight mucous expectoration; ſhe had alſo colliquative perſpirations, and morning and evening exacerbations. Theſe ſymptoms were checked, and for a time altogether ſuſpended, by the progreſs of pregnancy; but in a week after ſhe was brought to bed they re-appeared with double violence, and the expectoration became loaded with pus. Two of her ſiſters died of pulmonary conſumption.

I ſaw her on September 25, 1799, when ſhe had been taking for ſome time fifty drops per day of the ſaturated tincture of Digitalis, under the direction of Mr. Bunn, and her pulſe, which had been previous to the uſe of the Fox-glove 112, now beat but 80 ſtrokes in the minute; her cough, difficulty of breathing, and perſpirations are better; the expectoration, however, ſtill continues copious, and very purulent.

I requeſted the Digitalis might be gradually increaſed, and taken thrice a day; this was done, firſt in a preparation of cinchona and vitriolic acid, afterwards, when ſickneſs took place, in lemon juice, which enabled her to retain the drops on her ſtomach. The largeſt quantity ſhe could ever take of the tincture amounted to ſixty-ſix drops per day, divided into three doſes, at which time her pulſe dropped to 60, and for a ſhort period the greater part of her ſymptoms, even the expectoration, vaniſhed, and I entertained ſome hope of a ſalutary reſult. This amendment was, however, but tranſient, for, by the 16th of October, the ſymptoms returned with accelerated force, and ſhe died before the expiration of the month.

Case X. *Mrs. Holton*, of Nayland. Of this caſe I have preſerved no memoranda, having only ſeen her once, and when ſhe was in the laſt ſtage of phthiſis. She had taken, however, the tincture of Digitalis under the eye of Mr. Harrold, a very intelligent practitioner of the place. Only tranſient benefit had been received from it; and when my advice was requeſted, on December 26, 1799, ſhe was in a ſtate of very great debility. I ordered her the powder of Digitalis in pills, with a ſmall quantity of opium purificatum, but little or no relief, I believe, was obtained. She died, if I recollect aright, about two months after I ſaw her.

Case XI. *Mr. Green*, of Boxford, applied to me on the 9th of June, 1800. He is of a conſumpitve family, and has been for ſome time affected with every ſymptom of tubercular phthiſis. His expectoration I have had no opportunity of inſpecting. I requeſted Mr. Growſe, his ſurgeon, and near relation, would try the effects of the ſaturated tincture of Digitalis; and, on June 18th, when I laſt ſaw him, the medicine had agreed well, and I thought him better. I have taken no notes of this caſe, neither am I at preſent acquainted with the reſult.

Of theſe eleven caſes, four were inſtances of incipient phthiſis, and were cured; indeed I have much reaſon to think, not only from my own experience, but from that of others detailed

tailed in this Journal, that ſimilar ſucceſs will attend five caſes out of ſeven where ulceration has not occurred, and where the medicine has been early and ſkilfully exhibited.

Of the remaining ſeven caſes, ſix were certainly in the purulent ſtage; and of theſe, two were cured, and a third, viz. Mr. Hollick's caſe, remains undecided.

For the ſake of perſpicuity, and with a view of throwing the whole upon the eye at once, I ſhall give, in a tabular form, an arrangement of all the caſes of pulmonary conſumption in which I have attempted a cure through the medium of the Digitalis, ſtating the name, the ſtage, and the reſult.

Names.	Stage.	Result.
Marris, Mr.	Purulent.	Recovered.
Grimes, Mr.	Purulent.	Recovered.
Ames, Mr. *	Purulent.	Recovered.
Howlett Martha,	Incipient.	Recovered.
Bridgman, Miſs	Incipient.	Recovered.
Hammond Sarah,	Incipient.	Recovered.
Buſh Anne.	Purulent.	Recovered.
Salmon, Mrs.	Incipient.	Recovered.
Hart Anne,	Purulent.	Recovered.
Hollick Mr.	Purulent.	Undetermined.
Whitmore, Mr. †	Purulent.	Died.
Boutell, Mr.	Purulent.	Died.
Smith, Mr.	Purulent.	Died.
Green Mrs.	Purulent.	Died.
Holton, Mrs.	Purulent.	Died.
Green, Mr.		

From this table it will be immediately perceived, that out of ſixteen caſes of pulmonary conſumption, ſuppoſing Mr. Green's to have terminated unfavourably, nine have recovered, and one very important caſe remains yet undecided.

In thus ſtating hitherto the whole of my practice with the Digitalis in conſumption, I have taken much pains that every circumſtance ſhould be very faithfully recorded; with the view therefore of procuring greater accuracy, theſe caſes have been read over to moſt of the medical gentlemen who attended with me,

* The name of the patient whoſe hiſtory is given as Caſe III. Numb. VIII. p. 268.

† The name of the patient whoſe hiſtory is given as Caſe II. Numb. VIII. p. 267.

me, that any neceſſary particular which had eſcaped my minutes might obtain introduction.

It may be neceſſary, however, before I conclude this paper, and with the idea of obviating any captious query, to ſtate, that I have been ſent for to ſix patients who were literally dying, with a view of exhibiting the Digitalis! To two of theſe, who were actually in articulo mortis, I refuſed, though preſſed, to give one drop of the tincture; they both died, I believe, within forty-eight hours after my viſit. The third, Mrs. Iſaacs, of Witham, took about fourteen drops previous to her death, and, as might be expected, without any perceptible effect; ſhe died four days after I ſaw her. The fourth, Mrs. Hooker, of Boxted, took alſo a ſmall quantity of the tincture, but her debility being too great to bear its action, it was immediately given up; ſhe died about a week after it was relinquiſhed, and ten or eleven days after I ſaw her. The fifth, Joſeph Brett, apparently in a dying ſtate, began the tincture, but it was almoſt immediately withdrawn from its affecting his head; he died about ten days after I ſaw him. The ſixth, Mrs. Hird, near Manningtree, in the very laſt ſtage of the complaint, under which ſhe had laboured for near two years, attempted to take a ſmall quantity of the tincture, but her ſtomach could not bear it; ſhe died a few weeks after.

I ſhall now offer a few obſervations cloſely connected with the ſubject of this paper.

The power of diſtinguiſhing accurately between pus and animal mucus, has long been, and ſtill is, perhaps, a deſideratum. The following paſſage from Mr. Everard Home's Diſſertation on the Properties of Pus, preſents, however, a curious, and, apparently, a deciſive mode of aſcertaining this diſtinction: "The property," obſerves he, "which characteriſes pus, and diſtinguiſhes it from moſt other ſubſtances, is, its being compoſed of globules, (viſible when viewed through the microſcope.) Mr. Hunter was, I believe, the firſt who took notice of this property; and has thereby furniſhed us with a very accurate diſtinction between pus and animal mucus. For the appearance of what is properly termed mucus, that is, animal ſubſtance diſſolved from putrefaction, is flaky, and very different in its appearance from pus. It is alſo by this property diſtinguiſhed from all the chemical combinations of animal ſubſtance that I am acquainted with, every one of which appear in the microſcope to be made up of flakes."*

I have

* On the Properties of Pus, pages 36 and 37.

I have noticed, in Numb. X. p. 417, of this Journal, the vaſt utility of the Digitalis in catarrh, vomica, and hæmoptoe; in this laſt dangerous diſeaſe I have never ſeen it fail. The following caſe, the lateſt which has occurred to me, is ſo ſtrikingly illuſtrative of the ſalutary effects of the Fox-glove in active hæmorrhage, that I ſhall make no apology for introducing it.

Mr. Ennalls, aged 27, and of a ſtrong robuſt habit, having by violent muſcular exertion ruptured a blood veſſel in his lungs, diſcharged, by coughing, nearly one pint of blood in twenty-four hours; his pulſe 120, firm and hard. He has taken the ſaturated tincture of Digitalis, by the advice of his ſurgeon, Mr. Growſe, of Bildeſton, twice and thrice a day; and, when the doſe amounted to ninety drops in twenty-four hours, the pulſe was reduced to 50, and the hæmorrhage entirely ſubſided.

In conſequence, however, of incautious exertion too ſoon after his recovery, the hæmorrhage returned with more violence than at firſt, and on May 2, 1800, my attendance was requeſted. He had bled profuſely; the diſcharge, however, had been ſomewhat checked by the reſumption of the Digitalis; his pulſe notwithſtanding beat 124 ſtrokes in the minute; the heat was great, the breathing difficult, and ſo much irritability was preſent, that the hæmorrhage recurred upon any the leaſt effort either of mind or body.

I ordered the tincture of Digitalis to be increaſed in as rapid a manner as was conſiſtent with ſafety, and until the pulſe ſhould again drop to 50; I likewiſe preſcribed a drachm of the nitric acid in a pint of water daily, and a regimen of the cooleſt kind to be ſtrictly obſerved, along with perfect reſt.

The pulſe in a few days, I underſtand from Mr. Growſe, was reduced to 48, and on May 13, when I ſaw him again, the hæmorrhage had compleatly ſubſided; the heat was natural, the breathing eaſy, and nearly every morbid ſymptom removed. Pulſe between 50 and 60, for the doſe of Digitalis had been lately decreaſed by Mr. G. Ordered to continue the tincture, but in reduced doſes.

Some weeks after this he had another ſlight attack, which was ſpeedily removed by again having recourſe to the Digitalis. He is now, September 1800, in perfect health.

I have had occaſion to mention, in a previous page, that an auxiliary to, or ſubſtitute for, the Digitalis, poſſeſſing its active ſalutary powers, yet with a minor portion of deleterious energy, would be an acquiſition of the firſt importance. May not ſuch a medicine be found in the *Rhododendron Chryſanthemum* of Linnæus? This ſhrub grows on the ſummits of the high mountains named Sajanes, in the vicinity of the river Jeniſea;

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in Siberia, where, in a weak infusion, it is used for tea. A parcel of it was sent, some years ago, to Edinburgh, and warmly recommended as a cure for rheumatism. Dr. Home, in his "Clynical Experiments, Histories and Dissections," has given us a report relative to its effects in this complaint; it failed in alleviating the rheumatic symptoms, but in every instance exhibited a remarkable sedative effect on the heart and arteries. In three cases recorded at length, it reduced the pulse from 112 to 82, from 106 to 44, and from 96 to 66. An infusion of from half a drachm to three drachms was given for a dose; it usually produced slight giddiness; sometimes nausea, and an inclination to sleep. Dr. Home thus gives us his opinion of this active plant.

"It appears to be one of the most powerful sedatives which we have, as in most of the trials it made the pulse so remarkably slow, and in one reduced it 38 beats. By sedatives I mean such medicines as make the pulse slower, though not weaker. Such have not been much attended to by physicians; and, in most experiments, if the pulse was not quickened, the experimenter declared they had no effect on the pulse; never suspecting that there was a numerous class of bodies which rendered it slower, and had as powerful effects on the system as the former. This has been the cause of many false conclusions. I have attended much to this class of sedatives, have found it very extensive, and possessing, in common, many effects on the healthful and morbid body. Such medicines appear to be useful in a number of diseases, as they diminish the sensibility of the nervous system."*

It is very probable that, among the different species of Digitalis, there may be found some which shall act in a much milder manner than the *purpurea*, and yet be equally efficacious. According to the latest arrangement, these species are as follow: viz. 1. Digitalis purpurea; 2. Digitalis minor; 3. Digitalis thapsi; 4. Digitalis lutea; 5. Digitalis ambigua; 6. Digitalis ferruginea; 7. Digitalis obscura; 8. Digitalis canariensis; 9. Digitalis sceptrum; 10. Digitalis orientalis; 11. Digitalis cochinchinensis; 12. Digitalis sinensis.†

When the name and first description of this plant were given by *Fuschius*, only two species were known, the *purpurea* and the *lutea*,‡ and even of these the latter is but little attended to at

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* Home's Clynical Experiments, third Edition, p. 149.

† Vide Professor Martyn's Edition of Miller.

‡ Duum est generum, una enim purpureos obtinet flores, ideoque Digitalem purpuream appellavimus. Altera luteos habet flores, ob id Digitalis lutea dicta nobis est.

at present, though growing in most parts of Europe. It was cultivated by Gerarde in 1596. In the Memoirs, however, of the Royal Academy of Berlin, volume for 1794 and 1795, a manuscript dissertation by Dr. Careno of Vienna, is announced by M. Mayer, which treats of the efficacy of the *Digitalis lutea* in dropsy. We are told that Dr. Careno has found that this species of the plant possesses a stronger diuretic power than the *Digitalis purpurea, without any of its noxious effects*; and that he has succeeded in curing dropsical patients with Digitalis lutea, after the most powerful diuretics had failed.

A possibility here offers itself of discovering the sedative powers of the Digitalis, detached, in a great measure, from the noxious principle accompanying the species purpurea.

I have thus, Gentlemen, as far as at present lies in my power, attempted, from my own experience, to ascertain the value of this active agent in consumption; and if I may be allowed, in this stage of the enquiry, to form an inference from the practice, it would be, that in the Digitalis we have discovered a powerful and generally successful barrier against the ravages of this destructive disease; and that, of course, it will ultimately prove, if resorted to in due time, one of the greatest blessings which medicine has conferred upon mankind.

To have contributed something toward mitigating the evils of humanity, is to have opened a source of the purest individual pleasure; and though in carrying my wishes into execution, I may be occasionally injured by the spirit of uncandid controversy, yet shall the temporary uneasiness of wounded feeling weigh little in the scale; for, in whatever situation I may be in future placed, whether in sickness, in poverty, or in prison, I will call to mind the exertions I have now made, and be content.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

HAVING been favoured with the insertion of my last letter relative to the use of flos cerevisiæ in Typhus, I beg leave to submit the following pages to your consideration; if you think them worthy of notice, they are at your disposal.

Accounts of cases, when faithfully related, are nearly as satisfactory, whether the treatment has been successful or not, as, in the one instance, the public have a remedy before them, or otherwise a stimulus to discovery is excited by the failure of adopted

adopted remedies. The ſubject on which I ſhall ſolicit your attention is, the uſe of yeaſt, and recital of a method which has been projected to obtain it with greater purity; a plan attended with the greateſt national advantages, when you peruſe the Bills of Mortality, and reflect how many die annually of putrid diſorders. Among the lower claſſes of people the ravages of this diſeaſe are peculiarly afflicting, as their poverty prevents them from obtaining bark, red wine, &c. which are uſually the medicines made uſe of. This important ſubject has long been diſcuſſed through the medium of your excellent Journal; it has found in men of talents, patronage as well as perſecution;* the grand deſideratum is yet undetermined, (and may remain ſo a long time) whether it really poſſeſſes the powers aſcribed to it. I truſt, to the calm enquirer, ſatisfactory anſwers may be found, both in my letters and in thoſe of various others; for few, comparatively, have examined its merits; having, as they imagine, a ſufficient remedy. Though thouſands die annually, they paſs unnoticed any new ſuggeſtion, and conceive, probably from the ſimplicity of the ſubject, it is altogether unworthy attention. As many have complained of the diſagreeableneſs of taking yeaſt in its original ſtate, I was induced to conſider of a method by which the quantity might be leſſened without injuring its mode of action, and accordingly determined to filtrate a certain quantity, and take an exact account of what was loſt by the proceſs; accordingly, having obtained a quota of freſh ſmall-beer yeaſt, I proceeded as follows, viz.

A cup which I made uſe of, previous to being filled, weighed 2 oz. 6 dr. $\frac{1}{2}$; the cup full of yeaſt weighed 8 oz. 5 dr. ſo that the yeaſt at firſt, that is, before filtration, weighed 5 oz. 6 dr. $\frac{1}{2}$. I filtered it through common filtering paper, ſuch as is tied round pill boxes, and let it remain twenty-four hours, at which time the beer had completely ſeparated, leaving a thick extract; and on weighing them, I found them as follows, viz.

Beer drawn away, weighed 1 oz. 1 dr.
Yeaſt, 3 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$.

So I found I loſt better than an ounce, probably by the paper having imbibed a large quantity, as well as allowing for ſome that might not be taken off. This I do not conſider a ſtandard, as there may be much difference occaſioned by the time the yeaſt has remained after being taken from beer, and as it is occaſionally adulterated by mixing beer with it, in order to increaſe the value for ſale. Having proceeded thus far, my next plan was to try whether the quantity being ſmall or large

* See Mr. Cuſtance's Letter, publiſhed in No. XVII. for July, 1800.

large that was ſet apart, occaſioned any difference, and whether that quantity was beſt ſpread or otherwiſe. Into a four-ounce gallipot, I put on the 14th of October, 1800, two ounces of the pure extract, and ſet it in a dry ſituation; into a two-ounce gallipot I put half an ounce, and ſpread it round the ſides, ſo as to cover the whole of the inſide, thereby expoſing a much larger ſurface; and this I alſo laid in a very dry ſituation, namely, a cloſet by the fire: Into another two-ounce gallipot I put half an ounce, and laid it at the bottom in a lump; this, as well as the reſt, was carefully tied over with bladder and paper; but the latter I put in the dampeſt part of the cellar: Into a ſmall ſaucer I put half an ounce, and ſpread over the ſides; this was covered over and ſet near the fire, to bring it to a conſiſtence capable of pulverization. Thus far I proceeded on the 14th of October. On the 20th I examined the latter, and found it dried perfectly hard, of a nut brown colour, and ſtrong ſmell; and having procured half a pint of wort, juſt brewed, I heated it to the degree of 70, by the thermometer; and having previouſly mixed half a ſcruple of the powder with an ounce of the wort, and let them ſtand at a ſmall diſtance from the fire for an hour, I mixed them together: The half ounce of yeaſt that I ſet apart for drying, I omitted to mention, weighed before pulverization only twenty-three grains; thus loſing, by a ſecond evaporation, two hundred and ſeventeen grains from two hundred and forty.

On the next morning I examined the wort that had been mixed with the powder, but found the fermentation proceeded exceedingly ſlow, nor could I obtain from the proceſs any freſh yeaſt; I repeated my former experiment with the powder on October the 26th, but then found not the leaſt fermentation produced. Thinking another mode might be adopted that would better anſwer my expectations, I put a pint of water into a kettle, and having heated it to 75 of the thermometer, an ounce and a half of treacle was then put to it, which reduced it about five or ſix degrees; and having mixed a ſmall quantity of the liquor with the remaining powder, (about thirteen grains) I put them together, and after waiting ſome hours in anxious expectation, I confeſs I was much diſappointed by the reſult, when, on examination, I found it exactly as when mixed.

This experiment, however, has convinced me, that the gas is entirely diſſipated by being expoſed to heat; but a variety of reaſons induced me to try it: for, in the firſt place, the doſe of yeaſt in ſubſtance, and not freed from the beer, is about a large ſpoonful; and as the powder would have been given in much leſs compaſs, it might have been adminiſtered with greater

greater pleaſure to the patient, and certainty to the practitioner than in its original ſtate; and ſecondly, had the fermenting properties of yeaſt been retained in the ſmall compaſs of a powder, and poſſeſſing powers equally efficacious, the diſcovery would have been highly advantageous to the public; for yeaſt being ſometimes at a moſt exorbitant price, and frequently not to be obtained for any, brewers as well as others, would have been enabled to keep by them a large ſtock, and the public obtain it at an eaſy rate. I have been very particular in informing you the exact method I adopted in placing it, both in damp and dry ſituations; for in one, I ſpread it round the inſide of the pot, and in the other, I laid it in a lump. It would be treſpaſſing on your time, to be ſcrupulouſly preciſe in enumerating the various proceſſes that were afterwards made uſe of; but I am happy to ſay, I found the intention anſwer with little variation as to the place where they had been depoſited, and I produced a copious fermentation from all the others at the different periods of a week, fortnight, and month, and till all was conſumed. I think, from this narrative, it will plainly appear, that very great advantage is derived from filtration, as at leaſt it enables the practitioner to preſcribe with a greater degree of certainty, and the quantity loſt by this plan, is known by referring to the former part of my letter. I was indebted for my knowledge of a preſs, to the ingenious Mr. Packer, of London, which is, a "*frame made very ſtrong, and boards put inſide, with grooves, and wound acroſs the contrary way with ſtring, in order to prevent a flannel bag, which is made the ſize of the preſs, and put inſide it, filled with yeaſt, from getting into the grooves; by this means, an aperture is left for the beer to eſcape.*" According to Mr. P's account, about "*two-fifths beer is drawn away.*"

I have now cloſed the detail of my experiments with yeaſt. Some accounts of its unrivalled excellence in Typhus, have appeared in different Numbers of your inſtructive Journal, the authors of which, I believe, with the exception of one gentleman, have impartially confeſſed the beneficial effects. I have myſelf tried it in various inſtances, all of which recovered, though with appearances of rapid diſſolution. The teſtimony of one might be conſidered as the effect, perhaps, of bigotry, or want of general information; but let the prejudiced mind peruſe the ingenious letters of Dr. Lewin, of Liverpool, in No. IX. and Mr. Brown, of Hatton Garden, in No. XVI. The Doctor poſitively aſſerts, what I have ſo ſtrenuouſly defended in oppoſition to the accuſation of its enemies, "*that it does not affect the bowels;*" for I have tried it repeatedly, and always found it poſſeſſed of a contrary effect. Its uſe is not

more

more vehemently condemned even in this age of philoſophy? than it was in March, 1688, when the Faculty of Medicine at Paris, ſolemnly maintained it noxious to the health of individuals; and though the bigotry of ignorant enthuſiaſts at that time was inſufficient to aboliſh its uſe, yet men of acknowledged abilities condemn, partly from intereſt, partly from want of correct information, a medicine which they never made uſe of, or if they did, never attended to. When prejudice obſcures our reſearches, and mankind ſee through a falſe medium, can it be expected but condemnation muſt enſue? It is ſuch conduct that fetters inſtruction, and prevents the foſtering hand of diſcovery from imparting its genial aid. As an auxiliary to the plan of treatment ſpecified, I would recommend the uſe of the following for common drink, eſpecially as large draughts of water are beneficial.

Take two glaſſes of equal ſize, or two pint pots, and having filled one with water, hold it over beer, while working and nearly fit to be tunned, and gently pour it from one glaſs or pot into the other, for the ſpace of an hour, and this will be found highly impregnated with fixed air; and as the latter poſſeſſes ſuch a decided ſuperiority in putrefactive tendency, this impregnated water muſt, at leaſt, be equally ſerviceable.

It is obſerved by Dr. Shebbeare, in his Theory and Practice of Phyſic, that fixed air has been very advantageouſly adminiſtered againſt putrid diſorders in glyſters; and he alſo recommends the uſe of water impregnated with gas, as an antiputreſcent.

Thus far, Gentlemen, I have ſtated the reſult of my reſearches: I have ſcrutinized its various modes of action as circumſpectly as thoſe who condemn, and what is here expreſſed may be depended on. Convinced it will eventually remove the cloud of prejudice that has hitherto obſcured its glory, I leave the deciſion to time and inveſtigation, conſcious that he who employs ſome portion of his time in examining it with candour, will ultimately be repaid with ten-fold gratification.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your humble ſervant,

I. H. GROSE.

Winſlow, Nov. 7, 1800.

P. S. I ſhall take an opportunity, ſome future day, to inform you of any additional diſcovery.

Dr. Marshall, on the Cow-Pox.

Copy of a letter from Dr. MARSHALL to Mr. RING, dated Mahon, Iſland of Minorca, September 1800.

MY DEAR SIR,

IN my letter from Gibraltar, I informed you of our intention to proceed to this place. We arrived here upon the 7th inſt. and have been buſily employed amongſt the Navy and Army, who are both equally anxious to avail themſelves of the excellent diſcovery of our friend JENNER. The inhabitants here, from the great dread they entertained of the Small-pox, were cautious reſpecting the Cow-pox; but were ſo convinced of its innocency, from our arguments, as to permit us to inoculate ſome of the infants in the Foundling Hoſpital. From its mild effects upon them, we have now been ſolicited to extend the practice to their own children; and if it becomes general, as it probably will, we ſhall be detained here a few weeks longer.—From hence we intend proceeding to Palermo, Malta, or Naples, as a conveyance may offer; and I have to beg the favour of you to ſend me ſome Cow-pock virus to Naples and Palermo.

I am ſorry that the great haſte in which I am obliged to cloſe my letter, prevents the poſſibility of my adding more, than that the Cow-pox, in every inſtance, preſerves its characteriſtic mildneſs. I remain, &c.

J. H. MARSHALL.

Copy of a letter from Dr. MARSHALL to Mr. RING, dated H. M. S. Foudroyant, Gibraltar Bay, Oct. 16, 1800.

DEAR SIR,

YOU, no doubt, will be ſurpriſed at receiving a letter from me, dated Gibraltar, ſo ſpeedily after the one I did myſelf the pleaſure of writing to you from Mahon; but as, upon our arrival there, we were too late to join Lord Keith, he having ſailed the week previous, I determined to embrace an opportunity that offered of joining him, which I did yeſterday.

He has received me with great politeneſs, and not only permitted but recommended the inoculating of the Fleet for the Cow-pox; and I this day commence. I am now, and ſhall continue, on board his ſhip, till an opportunity occurs of going up to Palermo or Naples, which, I underſtand, will be in a very ſhort time.

I am

I am happy to inform you, that the Cow-pox is in full practice here amongſt the inhabitants, and has preſerved all its uſual mild characteriſtics in every inſtance. It was with great pleaſure as well as ſurpriſe, that my former friends received me again; and the gratitude they expreſs to our friend Jenner, for the benefit they experience from his great diſcovery, muſt be gratifying to all his friends. Dr. Walker I left buſy at Minorca; from whence he will proceed up to Malta, and we ſhall join again at Palermo.

I muſt beg a frequent ſupply from you of the virus, as I wiſh to try as many experiments as I can upon the activity of it, at different ages. I am ſorry to inform you, that what I procured from you, and put up ſo carefully, is now grown inactive; however, that is now four months old.

The troops that are here in the expedition, are falling down very faſt in the ſcurvy; and are in general ſickly. At Cadiz they have had a dreadful diſorder; which, ſo far as I can make out from the report of the phyſician who was ſent there from Madrid, and which I have ſeen, has every character of the yellow fever, attended with bilious vomiting, great proſtration of ſtrength, feeble pulſe, delirium, &c. and is highly infectious. Every precaution is uſed here, to prevent any communication with Spain; though I underſtand, that ſince the commencement of the rains, its violence has greatly abated.

I remain, &c.

J. H. MARSHALL.

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

BE pleaſed to inſert, if you think proper, the following Caſes in your valuable periodical Journal. I am,

Your humble ſervant,

Percy Street, Nov. 21, 1800. ISAAC OLIPHANT.

Mrs. Oſborn, now aged 57, wife of Mr. Oſborn, breeches-maker, South-ſtreet, Mancheſter ſquare, nineteen years ago received a puſh on her right breaſt, and ſoon after a violent preſſure from an iron rail. Conſiderable pain was felt from the laſt, and a hardneſs left, with tenderneſs to the touch. In ſome ſhort time, there aroſe a puckering of the ſkin all around

around the hardneſs; in proceſs the furrows became exceſſive, all concentric to the induration, and compared by her to *binding strings.*

Inflammation ſupervened, all the breaſt appeared comprized in it; ſuppuration came on, and ſeparated the induration from its ſurrounding attachment to the breaſt. This proceſs was accompanied with cold ſhivering, ſickneſs, and vomiting, as happens ordinarily in ſuppuration and extenſive ſloughings. When the ſeparation was complete, the indurated portion came out, according to her term, like a cork, leaving a gaping hole.

After the expulſion of the diſeaſed portion, the puckering ſkin unfolded to paſs into the cavity; the ſkin crept in, becomcoming inverted. The ulcerated ſurface was very little ſenſible, but the breaſt was very ſuſceptible and tender. From the cavity, exceſſive hæmorrhage enſued, happening particularly in the night, ſo as to deluge the bed-cloaths, and reduced her to extreme weakneſs.

During the ulcerating proceſs a cup full of cliver-juice was drank every morning, when it could be had; and malt infuſion in the different ſtages of fermentation with yeaſt, made in a jar, to her victuals, and to an unlimited quantity.

The glands in the axilla were greatly enlarged during the proceſs of induration and ſeparation; and the band of communicating lymphatics was very ſenſibly increaſed. The arm was ſwelled, of a cumbrous weight, and rendered almoſt entirely uſeleſs.

Seven years ago I ſaw her; the communicating lymphatics between the breaſt and axilla were alone in a condition of ulcer; the breaſt was entirely abſorbed, and gone, but axillary ſwelling continued conſiderable.

She had for ſome time uſed an ointment of oil, wax, and roſin, (the ointment in common uſe with the pretenders to cure cancers) which I wiſhed her to continue, as well as her other plan. The ſwelling of the arm and in the axilla gradually leſſened and diſappeared, and the ſore by degrees healed, and has been well for five years paſt.

There was ſome reaſon to believe, that the change which took place in her breaſt was owing to ſupervening febrile affection occurring two or three times in the autumn, attended with cholera morbus to a dangerous degree; her breaſt was in its worſt ſtate at this time; and ſince its cure, ſhe has been free from ſuch attacks.

Mrs. Craib, of Tottenham-court-road, aged 46, has had three children, the laſt fifteen years ago; was never able to ſuckle with the left breaſt, but had no great inconvenience from this circumſtance. The menſes hitherto regular, till pleuriſy

ſeized

feized her; otherwife fhe was extremely healthy, and conftantly employed in an active life.

Two years ago fhe got a violent bruife on the upper part of her left breaft; the effects fubfided as well as they ufually do in common cafes, only there was left fome hardnefs with a little occafional pain.

Six months after fhe received another bruife on the fame part, and all the confequences of contufion, fwelling, livid colour, and pain, were greater than in the former accident; and the remaining pain was more fevere, and the hardnefs of greater extent. In the recent ftate, repeated applications of leeches were ordered; and when the active condition of the difeafe was fuppofed to be removed, fome faponaceous camphorated embrocation was applied.

At this time the hardnefs was detached, and moveable from the general glandular ftructure of the breaft, when fhe went under the care of a friend, not of the profeffion, but who was a clofe reader of medical books; he had culled from thence active applications, but of courfe applied them at random. The intention was to procure fuppuration in the hardnefs, after means of difcuffion had failed; and one application was a poultice of pigeon's dung, that produced exceffive burning and moft excruciating pain; which, however, I believe, changed totally the difeafed condition, but increafed its extent. It now reached over much more of the breaft, and made the whole a confolidated mafs of difeafe, and attended with an extended irritation to the axilla and other breaft, wherein enlargements arofe.

The next perfon under whofe care Mrs. Craib fell, was a man who kept a chandler's fhop in her neighbourhood, and had been a porter to a furgeon. He had the boldnefs to pronounce his new patient curable in fix weeks, and that he would fet about it. He began his courfe by fprinkling it with a white powder, fuppofed burnt allum, which excited much pain, and covered the whole with a favourite ointment that he always carried away with him. This would not do, but he faid, it was only preparatory to ripen for the knife.

Mrs. Craib now got a recommendation to an eminent and experienced furgeon, who directly faw the marks of bad treatment in her breaft, and expreffed aftonifhment, hearing her cafe, that fhe had not had regular affiftance, and offered his fervices of recommendation to a public inftitution, which, however, fhe declined accepting.

She was depreffed with the profpect before her, and tormented with fhooting throbbing pains, particularly at the upper part of the breaft, attended with an oozing, irritating fanies, that excoriated as it extended. There was an ulceration below the nipple,

nipple, about the ſize of a ſhilling, and one above of about half the ſize, with jagged edges, covered at the bottom with a tomentous ſlough, of a yellowiſh colour. The ſkin ſurrounding the ulcers was level with the reſt of the breaſt.

In addition to the above, when ſhe firſt applied to me, the whole breaſt was a dark red conſolidated tenſe maſs, much like a large carbuncle, firmly fixed to the cheſt, and ſhe had a ſwelling in the arm-pit the ſize of a pullet's egg; chronic inflammation had ſeized ſeveral cuticular glands around, particularly between the breaſts, and moſt in the upper part. There was an adventitious hardneſs in the other, which ſhe ſaid, aroſe from the painful applications to the ulcerated one: I dare ſay it would have weighed three-fourths of a pound.

In ſome places there were interſtitial ſuppurations; a round hole with matter on the ſurface that could not be wiped away, reſembling ſea-ſcurvy, as happens in habits who have ulcers, particularly in the legs; there are often ſuch ulcerations of the ſkin, at different diſtances.

Her hands were affected with ſlight rhagades, and her left arm was conſiderably ſwelled; her pulſe was quick, but, I believe, not too frequent; her health conſtitutionally unimpaired, and perfectly regular. She ſlept well without an anodyne; and, in ſhort, had nothing to complain of but her ulcerated breaſt, and ſwelled weak arm, never feeling any affection from the other breaſt.

She put herſelf under my care the 8th of June laſt, and, to allay the irritation ariſing from improper applications and want of dreſſing, a ſedative opiate ſolution was applied to the ulcerations, and I covered the whole breaſt with ſoap cerate: She was directed to take a doſe, and repeat it occaſionally, of magneſia vitriolata, and daily, three times a day, four ounces of the aqua mephitica alkalina, and to bleed the moſt tenſe part with leeches. This had the deſired effect in removing the ſuperinduced irritation; and, on a ſubſidence of the ſwelling, there was a ſloughing, and ſtench from the ſore: but I was obliged to change this application for the fermenting poultice, and this application was continued to the 18th, with the intended effect. The ſore was as eaſy as ſuch a diſeaſed ſurface almoſt in any caſe could be ſuppoſed to be. The tenderneſs in the axilla was reduced; from not being able to bring her arm to her ſide, for ſome time paſt, nor lay on that ſide, ſhe could nearly do both; the choppings were much leſſened, and ſhe felt herſelf able to attend conſtantly her ſhop, and had good nights reſt. A favourable circumſtance alſo was, that no bleeding attended on this ulceration; as the whole breaſt, and its veſſels, appeared enveloped in ſuch diſeaſe, that I ſhould have had little reaſon

to

to expect their contracting to restrain hæmorrhage if it had occurred.

Having received a circular letter, in common with others in the profession, from Dr. Nisbet, signifying he intended to confine his practice to the treatment of Cancer, Scrophula, and Phthisis, I had the consent of Mr. Craib to have his advice, on the 18th of June, and he prescribed a grain of opium every night, a common drink of a small portion of fixed vegetable alkali and sulphur, diffused in water, and a sulphurated opening electuary; the breast to be dressed with simple cerate; and he said that it was a hopeless case, and that nothing could be done but palliation.

However, he wished to give her an antimonial alterative pill, of his own preparation, which I admitted of, wishing to wave delicacy for the possible benefit of my patient; but she only lost strength. Hopes of suppuration in the principal part of the disease were entertained, but it did not happen.

She soon was obliged to keep her bed-room, and spent much of her time in bed; indeed, working in her shop lessened the prospect of advantage from any treatment.

July 18th, in the evening, she was taken with a severe rigor, and I gave an opiate, and a dose of ipecac. in aq. ammon. acet. which brought on a profuse sweat; she had three such rigors in twenty days, which appeared to be owing to the sedative action of new-formed sloughs, and which, at this time, exhaled such a fœtor that Mr. Craib was obliged to part beds.

There was an ointment rubbed in, into the side of the ribs, similar to the pill, substituting sulphur for antimony, also of Dr. Nisbet's preparing. The applications were of my suggesting, and those I conceived the least suspicious of irritating, and divested of unctuosity, which quality is ever hurtful to such ulcers.

I was now sorry that the plan had been pursued so long, as no advantage had been got by it, either in the diseased appearance of the breast, or the sores; the last were greatly enlarged, and the breast had lessened in size in an equal proportion only to the general waste in the body. She was now pressed to go into the country as the only resource, but as her journey was to be to Nottingham, she wished for strength to bear such fatigue.

On the 16th of August, in the evening, she got out of bed to have it put to rights; thinking she would shortly return to it, she did not put on her stays; and in this state remained longer up than she at first intended, or thought herself able.

For want of her stays, as she thought, and in my opinion rightly, a pain seized her under the right breast, which she apprehended arose from flatulency, and drank some glasses of Madeira

deira wine to diſpel it; however, the pain increaſed, and I was called at five in the morning, when her pulſe could be hardly felt; ſhe was obliged to ſit up, was crying out continually with pain, at the ſame time preſſing forcibly on her ſide for eaſe.

I bled her to nine or ten ounces, and applied aq. ammon. pur. with a little oil, to excite a ſudden irritation, and ſave farther weakening by loſing of more blood, and gave a doſe of opium and ipecacuanha directly after.

However, the pain recurring from a fit of coughing, I was obliged to repeat the bleeding about four hours after the firſt, to about the ſame quantity, both of which were highly buffed and cupped. Her pulſe roſe, and I continued the opiate relaxant medicine with nitre and a little volatile alkali, and found, in the evening, ſigns of expectoration coming on, and which medicine now was conſidered competent for the treatment of this ſupervening diſeaſed affection.

At this time the breaſt was not an object of attention, only the ordinary dreſſing and cleanlineſs were attended to; and when it again became neceſſary to be examined into, the ulcer was changed into a common ſore, the breaſt ſhrunk, and conſiderably abſorbed; and in a ſhort time the whole was taken up as well as the ſwelling in the axilla, leaving for ſome little time after, a ſmall diſcharge from the moſt deep-ſeated ulceration, which alſo, in defiance of a ſtimulating application to keep up a diſcharge, cloſed.

Ever ſince her breath has been ſhort, and checked with cough, and glary expectoration; the pulſe, which before, I believe, never exceeded 80, was now upwards of 130, creeping and indiſtinct. She appeared exſanguinated, and very feeble; an iſſue was made in the oppoſite arm, but with no marked advantage.

On the 2d of October her oppreſſive breath in ſome degree increaſed, with teaſing cough, for which ſhe was ordered her former mixture, with the addition of the tincture of Digitalis, which moderated both; but from my enforcing the neceſſity of increaſing the expectoration, ſhe was afraid her medicine was mercurial, and did not purſue it properly.

Her breath and cough continuing troubleſome, on the 21ſt anaſarcous ſwelling of the face, ſtuffing, and fullneſs in the bowels, came on, with a ſcarcity of urine, ſometimes high coloured, and with copious ſediment; ſometimes the urina jumentoſa ſecreting not more than four or ſix ounces in twenty-four hours. In addition to her above mixture, ſhe took ℥iv. of the cream of tartar in an electuary, with ſome oil of aniſeed, daily.

On the 24th the urine was a little increaſed; and afraid of her

her naufeating the medicine, I compreffed them into one dofe three times a day, or occafionally, as,

℞. Pulv. Digital. gr. j. Cryftal. tart. ʒij. Ipecac. gr. jß. Zinzib. gr. ij. Mifce.

Under this plan, the fecretion of urine was increafed; her pulfe, before hardly perceptible, became ftronger; her cough lefs troublefome; expectoration eafier, and more free, amounting to near a pint of glary mucus, fome a little yellow, in twenty-four hours.

On the fubfidence of the continued irritation in her breaft, and no appropriate fuccedaneum being made, I introduced a feton into the fide, ordering, over and above the powder, an infufion of cafcarilla with parfley-feed, changed afterwards for quaffia and carraway-feeds.

The pulfe being now 110, the fecretion of urine plentiful, a little rednefs of health appeared again in the lips, and the pulmonic affection being the principal object, I give her the following pill three times a day, taking a dofe of cream of tartar occafionally, with the infufion, conftantly three times a day.

℞. Pulv. Digital. gr. j. Ipecac. gr. jß. Ext. papav. alb. g. ß. Ol. anifi. g. jß. c. fyrup. fiat pilula.

With this the breath was expanded, and a purulent expectoration enfued; notwithftanding, much general relief was not felt till the 13th inftant; in the night a moft fevere pain attacked the right temple, and over the eye, which, in the morning, terminated in an eryfipelatous fwelling.

On the 15th the fwelling increafed, and blindnefs enfued; the breath and cough were much improved, from, probably, the difeafed irritation being determined to the face; this induced me to prefcribe patience only; and on the 18th it totally difappeared, but with an evident aggravation of the complaint in the cheft.

She now occafionally drinks to her meals, malt infufion in the different ftages of fermentation, with yeaft, in addition to her other plan.

In the reduced ftate Mrs. Craib was in, when the pleurify took place, perhaps much of its violence might have been owing to a mercurial habit, but not a little to about a pint of Madeira wine fhe drank from the commencement of it. The bleeding and relaxants employed, produced a quick abforption, and the general inflammation changed the ulceration to a common fore, which had fuch a tendency to heal, that it clofed up in defiance of a ftimulating ointment applied to keep it difcharging.

I have confined myfelf to the ftatement of facts; and how far art had to do with the changes that took place, I leave the profeffional gentlemen to determine. What I have now to re-

gret is, that neither of them holds out hopes of remedy to suffering humanity afflicted with such a dreadful disease as cancer; and though I admit of the removal of the diseased breast, and swelling in the axilla, by an effort of the constitution,* it is my opinion that neither of the cases was cancer, certainly not idiopathic cancer. All who saw Mrs. Osborn's case, said it was a true cancer; but Mr. Lewis, surgeon, in Half Moon Street, who examined it at this time, was of a different opinion; he had his reasons; and the result of the case satisfies me his decision was judicious. Mrs. Craib's was more equivocal.

CRITICAL RETROSPECT

OF

MEDICAL AND PHYSICAL LITERATURE.

[FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.]

Samuelis Thomæ Soemmering Tabula Baseos Encephali; Francofurti ad Mænum, 1799, *impensis Auctoris, with two plates, in small folio, price* 2 *florins* 45 *kreutzer, or about* 5*s.*

Few anatomists have acquired such great and unquestionable praise for the anatomy and physiology of the human brain as the celebrated Mr. Soemmering; to him we are indebted for a more accurate knowledge and distribution of the origin of the nerves, of which he has for that purpose given a most excellent table, representing the *basis encephali*; and what is a certain proof of its excellence, Mr. Vicq d'Azyr had it afterwards copied in his valuable work. He was the first who discovered the third and fourth substance, (*substantia subflava et nigricans*). He first proved the sand in the brain to belong to the natural state of it; he first proposed the very interesting and incontestible principle, that man has the greatest brain in proportion to the thickness of his nerves; and lastly, he conceived the most ingenious, though hypothetical idea of

* See the influence of febrile action in the Aphorisms of Hippocrates, "Febris morbum tollit." and Gaubius, "Licet enim commotio isto, perturbato circulationis systemate gravibusque symptomatis molesta, haud raro perniciem inferat, hinc merito morbus appelletur; sæpe tamen et mirifice adeo salutaris est, u certius aliud potentiusve cum ad sanandos, tum præcavendos morbus auxilium natura vel ars, vix agnoscat."

of the vapour or water in the ventricles of the brain being the feat or organ of the foul. After having given fo many trials of his fuccefsful endeavours in enlightening the anatomy and phyfiology of the brain, and of his fkill in reprefenting it, a new Tabula Bafeos Encephali muft naturally raife the expectations of every anatomift, particularly, as that which he publifhed twenty years ago feemed to be matchlefs. Mr. Soemmering, however, intended to give here a moft finifhed reprefentation of the bafis encephali. "Tabulam, (he fays) quantam in me fuit, omnibus numeris abfolutam;" and at the fame time, to difcufs again fome of his former difcoveries, and fupport them with new arguments. For this purpofe, a brain which he had taken out of the fkull of a boy of three years old, feemed to be perfectly calculated, by having all parts complete and vifible; and this he accordingly got drawn under his infpection by Mr. Köck, a very excellent artift. Befides, as the foft brain is very apt to fall together, and by that means to lofe its natural form, the fkull from which it had been taken was filled with plafter of Paris, and in this way the true form, though rudely, was reprefented; after which it was corrected and accurately copied in the drawing. The artift has been particularly careful with refpect to the true fituation of the nerves. The table is engraved by *P. M. Alix* at Paris, in aquatinta, a manner particularly proper for the reprefentation of fuch foft parts as the brain, by marking the foftnefs and unperceivable tranfition of one part to another much better than any other method. Although it is rather difficult to preferve in this manner the accurate fketches of fingle parts, yet this is performed by the artift in a moft fuperior way. All the inequalities and windings of the furface of the cerebrum, and each nervous filament are fo mafterly and diftinctly figured, without hurting the foftnefs of the whole, that this plate may be confidered as a chef d'œuvre, as well in point of art as in accuracy and precifion. It bears not only an impartial comparifon with the excellent tables of Vicq d'Azyr, but in many refpects furpaffes them, and particularly the windings and impreffions are here better and more faithfully reprefented. The infertion and fituation of fome of the nerves, viz. the fourth, are by no means accurately enough figured in the tables of Vicq d'Azyr; and on a clofe examination of Soemmering's tables with thefe, they will be found much fuperior. There are about 300 good copies ftruck off; the weaker impreffions are marked with letters, referring to the explanation, and two plates are therefore given with every copy of the publication, a good one, and a weaker print with letters. In the letter-prefs, the author farther difcuffes fome of the difcoveries he had already mentioned a long time ago. The firft *dogma* eftablifhed by him, is, *that man has the greateft cerebrum in proportion to the nerves arifing from it*; or, in other words, *man has the fmalleft nerves with the greateft cerebrum*; and in this difproportion of the mafs of the brain to the nerves, the reafon of his mental faculties is founded. This principle has been conftantly proved by the diffection of the brains of

of different animals; and anatomifts and phyfiologifts of the firft rank, Alex. Monro, Vicq d'Azyr, Blumenbach, &c. are fo convinced of its truth, that it is now confidered as a phyfiological canon, and a law of animal economy.

The fecond *dogma* is, that *the human cerebrum differs alfo from the brain of animals by the proportion its single parts bear to one another*. From a comparifon of this table with the bafeos encephali of animals, it appears that the human cerebellum is proportionably much fmaller than that of animals, that the medulla fpinalis is likewife much thinner, and that the windings of the brain are differently formed. The eminences and tubercles are alfo different from thofe of animals.

The third *dogma* refers to the largenefs and property of the brain of a boy three years old, as is reprefented here, viz. to its being almoft as big as the cerebrum of an adult, which will appear more evident by comparing it with the figures of *Vicq d'Azyr* and *Santorini*. It however differs from the brain of an adult by its fubftance being fofter, its tunica arachnoides thinner; by the darker fubftantia corticalis, and whiter fubftantia medullaris; alfo, by the nerves being rounder, fofter, more flender and fibrous; the olfactory nerves being thicker and fhorter, &c. the auditory nerve only having the fame fize and ftructure.

The fourth *dogma*, firft laid down by Mr. Soemmering, and confirmed in this table, particularly in the olfactory and auditory nerve of the left fide, is this: *the nerves are conical*, i. e. the more a nerve removes from its origin, the more it increafes in thicknefs.

Thefe are the moft interefting contents of this claffic publication. It would have been neceffary to tranflate it entirely, if we had intended to communicate every interefting idea it contains, particularly what Mr. Soemmering fays of the difference of the brains of different animals, &c. but we hope that every anatomift will read and ftudy it.

Samuelis Thom. Soemmering, Icones Embryonum Humanorum; Francofurti ad Moenum, 1799, 10 pp. with two plates in large folio, on vellum paper, price 9 florins, or about 18s.

In this publication Mr. Soemmering has given another inftance of his great anatomical abilities in throwing a new light upon one of the moft interefting parts of Anthropology; and this he has done in fuch a fuperior manner, as might be expected from fuch an able and ingenious anatomift, and fuch a great connoifeur in the art of drawing. The figures of fœtuffes which we poffefs of Froien Albinus, Wrisberg, William Hunter, and Denman, though they are otherwife good, afford no complete reprefentation of an embryo in all the different changes which it undergoes from its firft appearance till the fourth and fifth month. What is paffing with it after that period, is moft mafterly reprefented in the valuable work of William Hunter, which will be confidered as an eternal monument of the high degree of perfection the art of engraving

graving has reached in England. The present work of Mr. Soemmering is to be next ranked, equalling it with respect to the form in which it is published, and particularly in the elegance and accuracy of the drawing and engraving. On the first plate there are 17 fœtusses, figured from the third week after the conception to the first half of the fifth month. The second table represents in two figures an entire ovum of 5 months, and in the third figure the embryo taken out of it. All these figures are drawn with great accuracy in the natural shape, and in the very situation in which they were obtained. Every change produced by their being kept in spirit of wine, the wrinkles, &c. are justly omitted. On the title page two ova, one opened, and the other unopened, are likewise most excellently represented. We should wish to give an extract of the explanation of the figures, which is interwoven with many new and instructive remarks, but we are afraid of exceeding the limits of this Journal, and we only beg leave to subjoin the general remarks premised to the explanation, as, on account of their novelty and general interest, they deserve to be communicated to our readers. The embryo increases very fast during the first days and weeks, but slower afterwards, and never in equal proportion; for, in the second month it seems to grow slower than in the third; in the beginning of the fourth month in a still less degree; while, in the middle of that month, it increases more till the sixth, when, about this time, it begins to grow in a less degree till the ninth month. The ovum is proportionably greater and bigger the younger the fœtus is. In the two first months the fœtus keeps itself in a bent situation, stretching itself afterwards; but towards the end of pregnancy it takes again the former posture. The head hangs down in every period, bearing always a larger proportion the younger the fœtus is. In very early ones the head exceeds the rest of the body in largeness, and that part which contains the brain has a larger proportion than the face, the younger the fœtus is. The most formed parts of the head in the beginning are the ossa temporum, but of the neck no rudiments can be traced in the third month. The limbs appear like small roundish knobs, increasing and forming in the second month. The eyes, in very small fœtusses, shew themselves as two small black dots, the eye-lids open in the second month, or at least are so transparent that these dots are visible; they shut afterwards: the external part of the iris is formed earlier than the inner. The external ear forms in the following progression: At first the middle part of the helix is remarked, then the tragus, then the antihelix and the lobe of the ear, and at last the superior and inferior part of the helix; and in the fifth month the cornea and scapha are formed; however, the total form of the ear is by no means so perfect as in an adult. The nose of a fœtus is likewise differently formed. The genitals are from the beginning evidently conspicuous. The penis is more elongated in very young fœtusses, and the glans uncovered. In female fœtusses a rima is perceived in lieu of the genitals; and in the third month the clitoris begins to be visible, and appears prominent till the

the ſixth month. The umbilical chord is ſhort and thick at firſt, but grows more in length afterwards. Mr. Soemmering has remarked in ſeveral well preſerved, even very young, fœtuſſes the following ſexual differences: The thorax is moſt ſtrikingly different in both ſexes. In the male fœtus it is longer, conical, and wider, than the belly and pelvis. The fémale thorax is ſhorter, widens till the fourth rib, where it becomes narrower, and its diſtance from the pelvis is greater; female fœtuſſes are flat breaſted and big bellied. Another mark of difference lies in the head, which is bigger in the male fœtus, but leſs round, &c. The ſuperior extremities are longer in a male fœtus; the ſhoulder-blades ſtronger and prominent, the arms more conical, the fore arm more fleſhy, the carpus broader, and the tops of the fingers more pointed. The inferior extremities lie cloſer together in a male fœtus, are more ſlender, and the knuckles and heels are thicker, and the great toe larger than in a female fœtus. There is likewiſe a ſexual difference in the back bone, which however is not expreſſible by a figure. Mr. Soemmering concludes by entering into the queſtion, whether the ſame faculties of the mind and body are innate in men, or whether the different conſtruction of the body produces a difference in thoſe mental faculties? and he is inclined to aſſent to the ſecond part of the queſtion.

Pathologiſch Practiſhe Abhandlung, i. e. Pathological and Practical Diſſertation on the vapours, or wind in the inteſtinal tube, intended for Phyſicians and invalids. By J. Ch. G. ACKERMANN, Profeſſor at the Univerſity of Altdorf, 1800. Altdorf and Nuernburg, in 8vo. pp. 386, price one rixd. or about 3s. 6d.

AMONGST the medical publications that appeared laſt Eaſter, the preſent deſerves a particular notice. Dr. Ackermann treats in the firſt chapter of the different gaſiform fluids contained in the inteſtines; in the ſecond, of the preternatural ſtate of them; in the third, of the ſymptoms that originate from an accumulation of air in the inteſtinal canal; in the fourth, on the cauſes of the wind or flatus; in the fifth, of the cure; and in the ſixth, of what manner of life, perſons ought to obſerve for preventing them. Although we have met in the peruſal of this book, ſome inaccuracies, and although we could wiſh that the author had been more copious in its dietetical part, as it is not only devoted to profeſſional men, yet we can juſtly recommend it as containing a great deal of information, and it may prove equally inſtructive to the phyſician as well as to the common reader.

Professor Reich's Theory and Practice of Fever.

THE public have been already informed, through the medium of this Journal, of the diſcovery of a new remedy, founded upon a peculiar theory, with which Profeſſor *Reich* pretends to cure all fevers, of whatever deſcription they may be. This matter engaged the attention of the public ſtill more, when the King of Pruſſia

Pruſſia ordered a committee, conſiſting of the moſt reſpectable phyſicians of Berlin, to whom the Profeſſor was to communicate his arcanum, for inquiring into the nature of that diſcovery; and in caſe it ſhould in ſome meaſure be found ſatisfactory, the inventor was under the condition of publiſhing it for the benefit of the community, and to receive a due reward from the king.

The reſult of that inquiſition proving, on the whole, not unfavourable to Dr. *Reich*, a pamphlet is now publiſhed, in which both the theory and practice of his new method are propoſed. It is entitled, "*Gottfried, Chriſtian Reich, M. D. und Profeſſor, &c. vom Fieber und deſſen Behandlung Uberhaupt*; i. e. on Fever, and its Treatment in general; publiſhed at the order of His Majeſty the King of Pruſſia, by the Collegium Medicum et Sanitatis: Berlin, for Frederic Maurer, 1800; pp. 102, 8vo.

We ſhall endeavour to give our readers a faithful extract of this publication, upon which the general attention is now fixed, and we leave it to their judgement, whether the principles laid down in it, deſerve ſo much regard as has been ſhewed to them by this public tranſaction under the authority of an enlightened king. The whole is aphoriſtically diſpoſed in paragraphs; and firſt, the theory is explained upon which the practice is founded; and then concluded, with marking the advantages which may reſult to the art of healing as well as to the community, from this new method of cure.

" All functions of the human body, ſecretions as well as excretions, are produced by the continual action of animal chemical proceſſes, whereby the mixture of organic matter is perpetually changing. Theſe proceſſes originate in the uninterupted reaction of powers or principles, that act in oppoſition to one another; and from the reciprocal action of thoſe oppoſite principles, reſults *life*, which conſiſts *in a continual tendency of heterogeneous matters towards homogeneity*; or, in other words, *in a continual circular motion, produced by the conflict of adverſe principles.* Organization being now a chemical product, its actions or qualities, vis vitalis, incitability, ſenſibility, irritability, &c. have a chemical origin; and conſequently all actions of ſingle parts of the human body, are founded in animal chemical proceſſes. The actions of the fluid parts of the human body, owe evidently their origin to theſe proceſſes; and as all ſolid parts may be reduced to fluids, their actions likewiſe depend on them. It is, however, to be remarked here, that the word *fluid*, as well as that of *chemical*, muſt be taken in the moſt extenſive ſenſe, according to which it comprehends all gaſiform ſubſtances, and even thoſe that cannot be repreſented by themſelves, and which we know under the name of magnetic, Galvanic, electric matter, &c. From theſe principles it follows, that all changes of the human organic body, depend on the changes of its chemical qualities, and that even the faculties of the mind are influenced by them, which, however, are able to re-act upon the chemical qualities. The body being expoſed now according to the common courſe of nature, to a continual influ-

ence of chemical powers, that manifest a continual tendency to homogeneity, it is only capable of retaining its existence by opposing to this, a tendency to heterogeneity; and as long s those chemical potencies do not acquire a surplus, or as long as the animal chemical processes proceed under the above condition, the body will retain its identity, i. e. it will continue to live; but as soon as its processes are no more produced after animal chemical, but after the dead physico-chemical laws, it will cease to live, and enter into the power of the common course of Nature. The animal chemical processes differ from the dead chemical or physical, by having their place of action in the animated body, where the common laws of chemical affinity are differently modified.

"The most important animal chemical processes, are *respiration* and *nutrition*; at the cessation of either of them, death is the inevitable consequence. Respiration is the most necessary and primitive function of the human constitution, to which all other functions are subordinate. The body obtains by respiration from the atmospheric *oxygen*, a necessary principle for its preservation. Besides this, the atmosphere contains another essential constituent, *the azote*, and a small proportion of *carbon*, all which substances are combined and reduced to the consistency of gases by the *calorique*. It is known that atmospherical air is only fit for respiration by containing *oxygen*, but in so loose a state, that it easily separates in the lungs from its combinations with the other constituents. Respiration now is to be considered as one of the most simple animal chemical processes, because the combination of the oxygen with the blood during the act of breathing, is effected according to the pure laws of chemical affinity. But when oxygen is only consumed in respiration, it may be asked, why has Nature provided the atmosphere with such a great proportion of azote, that is unfit for respiration? and why does the atmosphere not merely consist of gas oxygen? This question however is easily answered, when we consider that life is founded upon a contest of adverse principles, which are here the *azote* and the *oxygen*, both of which must be looked upon as the proper principles of life. It is highly probable, without any farther proof, from the surplus of the *azote*, *that this is the stimulating, or exciting, positive principle of life*; *whereas the oxygen is the tempering, mitigant, limiting, negative principle of life*. The function of the nerves seems to consist in serving as conductors of those principles, an opinion which gains great probability by the Galvanic experiments. The existence of the body, however, does not entirely depend on these two principles, *azote* and *oxygen*, but it obtains by nutrition other principles, which must necessarily be united with those, in order to support organization. The aliments being dissolved by nutrition into their elementary particles, nutrition deserves, with equal right the appellation of an animal chemical process, and all secretions as well as excretions belong to the process of nutrition. The different substances proper for nutrition, and for this purpose secreted in the body, or evacuated from it, are always influenced by the absolute

laws

laws of chemical affinity, which are, however, differently modified in the human living body, by ſeveral circumſtances and conditions.

"As long as theſe laws of chemical affinity are thus modified, there is always an equilibrium of the different functions of the human body; this remains in a ſound ſtate: but as ſoon as the equilibrium is diſturbed, and the laws of affinity declining from the vital path, approach to the dead chemical affinity, a tranſition into a diſeaſed ſtate takes place. The ſecretions being ſubordinate to the proceſs of nutrition, experience the ſame morbific change, when that proceſs is affected in a diſeaſed manner. This is proved by the products of the ſecretions and excretions, that appear more or leſs changed in a morbid ſtate, which is particularly evident in fevers, where no excretion or ſecretion exiſts, which muſt not be, or is not changed, viz. urine, alvi excretio, breath, tranſpiration, blood, gall, &c. Fevers, therefore, differ only from a healthy ſtate of the body, by the excretions and ſecretions being thus changed, that the general equilibrium of the different organs and conſtituent particles is diſturbed, and conſequently a general diſproportion in them produced. As the ſecretions and excretions in the ſound ſtate, as well as in fever, conſiſt in a ſeparation and combination of the different ſubſtances operating in the body, regulated according to the laws of organization, they may be compared with the proceſs of fermentation, which goes on naturally and regularly in a ſound ſtate, and is diſturbed when the body is diſeaſed, where at the ſame time the general equilibrium is deranged. However, in drawing this compariſon, it muſt always be regarded that this fermentation proceeds in a living body, where the common laws of fermentation cannot indiſcriminately be applied, but ſuffer a change by the organization. Fever therefore is a modification of life, which by its form and generic character, differs from any other modification, which we comprehend under the idea of diſeaſe. All fevers, from the *ephemera* to the *plague*, the higheſt degree of febrile affection, are ſpecies of the ſame genus, ſuppoſing they have the ſame generic character, or ſomething peculiar and eſſential common to them all, without which they cannot be ranked under the name of fever. This generic character is not materially perceptible, but rather abſtruſe, and only noticed by collecting and comparing the phenomena of fever and the perceptible external cauſes. We only obſerve that every thing which diſturbs the juſt and general proportion of both principles of life, among one another, or with the other ſimple or compound ſubſtances that the body contains, produces a preternatural fermentation, and excites ſuch ſymptoms which are aſcribed as peculiar to fever. Theſe ſymptoms conſiſt in a greater or leſs change of all ſecretions and excretions, depending on a diſturbed proportion of the ſubſtances acting on the body, and in it, which is effected on abſolute diminution, or chemical adaptation of oxygen, influenced by certain external circumſtances.

"The generic character, or the nature of fever, conſiſts accordingly

cordingly *in a preternatural ſeparation and combination of the moſt ſimple conſtituent particles of the human body, effected by a preternatural, abſolute or relative, topical or general, diminution of oxygen.* This diminution of the oxygen is as eaſily occaſioned by external as by internal cauſes. Among the external cauſes may be counted, beſides the common miaſmata and corrupted particles of the atmoſphere, the exanthematous contagia, which when received into the body cauſe a fermentation, whereby the due proportion of oxygen towards the other elements of the body is aboliſhed, and a preternatural ſeparation and re-union of them produced. As the ſound ſtate of the body comprehends a continual ſeries of animal chemical proceſſes, or, in other words, a continual fermentation, ending and beginning with every moment, all external things or circumſtances, interrupting or diſturbing the natural progreſs of theſe proceſſes, are capable of exciting a fever, and the temperature of the air, the ſtate of electricity, have a great influence in this reſpect. The internal potencies which produce a febrile ſtate, are either pre-exiſtent or generated in the body; and every thing that diſturbs the action of the ſolid parts, muſcles, nerves, and veſſels, proceeding according to chemical laws, is able to produce a fever, in which likewiſe mental impreſſions have no ſmall ſhare.

"The proximate cauſe, therefore, of all fevers is grounded either in an obſtructed due reception of oxygen, or in the preternatural adaptation of it, and in the exceſſive accumulation and extrication of azote, hydrogen, carbon, ſulphur, and phoſphorus, and all other elementary particles of the body, and in the various combinations of theſe ſubſtances with one another, or with acceſſory ſubſtances by which they are modified, as light, calorique, magnetic, and electric matter. The phenomena of fever differ according to the ſhare which either of thoſe ſubſtances have in producing the febrile ſtate, according to their particular ſeat of action to the degree and manner of combination, and according to the incitability or activity of the organic parts, which is hereby influenced. When the organiſm has not yet loſt its power or incitability, to re-eſtabliſh the due proportion of thoſe principles, and no organ neceſſary for life is injured or deſtroyed, and the animal chemical proceſſes do not yet too much approach to the dead chemical or phyſical laws, every fever muſt and will ſurely and radically be cured, *by reſtoring the want of oxygen* in ſuch a manner, that no viſcus neceſſary for life is endangered by it.

"*Oxygen* is therefore the only ſure remedy againſt fever, which, though it may differ by its origin, always depends on an abſolute or relative want of it. As this element cannot be exhibited by itſelf, thoſe ſubſtances muſt be employed for the cure of fevers, in which it is contained in the moſt pure and ſimple ſtate,—and theſe ſubſtances are *the acids*. Every acid being the production of a baſis acidifiable and oxygen, an acid is more proper for the cure of fever, the leſs of the former and the more of the latter it contains. On this

this account, *the mineral acids* ſurpaſs all other, and are particularly adapted for the purpoſe.

Profeſſor Reich proceeds now to anſwer the objection which may be made to him, that oxygen is too ſtrictly adherent to the acidifiable baſis of the acids, to be ſeparated in the body.—"Every combination of an acid with other ſubſtances, is a proceſs of combuſtion, which cannot take place without the combination of the oxygen with the combuſtible element. That the combination of an acid with other ſubſtances, is to be conſidered as a proceſs of combuſtion, appears from the action of ſtrong mineral acids upon vegetable and animal ſubſtances, which are thereby deſtroyed; and this combuſtion is more vehement and perfect when the acid is ſtrong, leſs perceptible when it is weak: oxygen, however, is always diſengaged by it. The ſame proceſs now proceeds in the body, by the acids uniting in the ſubſtances it meets there; the degree of combuſtion differs according to the ſtrength of the acid and the general temperature of the body. It is very probable, that even *muriatic acid*, which has not yet been decompoſed by the common proceedings of experimental chemiſtry, on account of its too great affinity to oxygen, ſuffers that decompoſition in the human organiſm; for ſalt ſeems to be very neceſſary for mankind, &c.

"Although it ſeems contradictory to aſſert, that the exceſſive accumulation and extrication of calorique is prohibited in the quickeſt and ſureſt way by mineral acids, and whereas we know by a common experiment, that at the combination of ſuch an acid with other ſubſtances, a great deal of calorique is ſet free, yet it may be thus explained: Mineral acids are never given in a pure ſtate, and without being previouſly diluted; and thoſe ſubſtances with which they are diluted, are always deprived of a great part of their calorique. If now, at the combination of the oxygen with organic fluidities, the calorique is diſentangled, it is immediately imbibed by thoſe ſubſtances which are in want of it, and again bound; it is no more in a free ſtate, as it was in the dry febrile heat, but it goes off with the ſecretions and excretions, according to the natural progreſs of organiſm.

"But if we even abſtract from all theoretical reaſoning, experience bears alſo evidence to theſe ideas, as acids have been empirically found to be the beſt remedies againſt fever. Fevers, therefore, are only cured when ſuch a quantity of oxygen is brought into the body and equally diſtributed in it, as is required for re-eſtabliſhing the equilibrium amongſt its different conſtituent particles, which was diſturbed by the febrile motions. The Profeſſor draws now a nearer compariſon between the proceſs of fermentation and a febrile ſtate, which, as is abovementioned, he conſiders as a fermentative act, in which the common laws of fermentation take place, modified only by organiſm. As this is influenced by the temperature and the addition of ſeveral ſubſtances, the ſame happens in a fever where the reſtoration of the equilibrium is in a ſimilar way either promoted or diſturbed, or preternaturally changed.

The

The progreſs of fever requires, like fermentation, certain periods, before it is accompliſhed, and runs alſo through different ſtadia, before the fever is removed by criſes.

"Led by theſe principles, and by the inſtinct of febrile patients for the uſe of acids and other ſubſtances that contain an abundance of oxygen, and induced by former experiments, which proved their efficacy in fevers, Dr. Reich diſcovered *the mineral acids* to be the ſureſt remedies againſt fever, and he even applied them with hopes of ſucceſs in the laſt periods of fevers, where death ſeemed inevitable; and no phyſician had yet conceived the indication of employing them, nor ever adminiſtered them. He thought himſelf the more entitled to entertain hopes of ſucceſs, as there is no abſolute danger in fevers; for if we conſider life as an animal chemical proceſs, it can only be endangered when the general mixture of the conſtituents of the body approaches to the higheſt degree of animal fermentation, by which the equilibrium is either reſtored or entirely ſuppreſſed by a chemical deſtruction of incitability. This degree of animal fermentation enſues either according to the natural and peculiar courſe of that proceſs, or is brought on by different external and internal cauſes; and the danger of life increaſes in proportion to the velocity with which the animal fermentation runs through the different ſtadia to the higheſt degree.

"It remained now to determine, in what quantity the acids may be given. For this purpoſe, Prof. Reich made experiments on himſelf, and began to take ſulphuric acid, the internal uſe of which had been long ago recommended; and he aſſures us, that after having purpoſely cauſed himſelf an indigeſtion, he conſumed by degrees in one hour, a whole ounce of concentrated ſulphuric acid, which was diluted with a great quantity of water. This large doſe had no other effect, but that the belly was a little inflated, a great quantity of wind went off, and after a reſtleſs night, ſeveral ſtools followed."

The firſt caſe in which it was made uſe of, is related in his *Caſes of Diseaſes*, (in German) Nurnberg, 1800, Vol. I. "Every ſymptom of approaching death was preſent here, ſingultus, ſubſultus tendinum, &c. which he conſidered as Galvanic convulſions, produced by the ſurplus of ſubſtances oppoſite to oxygen. About one hundred drops of concentrated ſulphuric acid, diluted with a ſufficient quantity of ſcrup and water, were adminiſtered the firſt time; but as a vomiting was brought on by this doſe, the ſecond conſiſted only of fifty drops, and likewiſe the third, and the remaining two, full doſes of two hundred drops. The abdomen of the patient being much inflated with a great degree of tenſion, a ſymptom originating from the generation of different gaſes, Dr. Reich determined to try the external application of acids, particularly as he was conſcious of the great avail of clyſters of vinegar in any ſtate of malignity. For this purpoſe, muriatic acid ſeemed beſt to be calculated, becauſe it is milder and more volatile than the ſulphuric acid, and eaſily combines itſelf in the form

of

of a gas with other gaſes. A clyſter of warm water was accordingly applied, with forty drops of muriatic acid, which, as it produced an evacuation by ſtool, with much wind, to the conſiderable relief of the patient, it was repeated a ſecond time. The ſucceſs of theſe two remedies fully anſwered the expectations which had been entertained of them; and the patient got, by the external uſe of ſulphuric acid, and the internal uſe of muriatic acid, quite out of danger, after the ſpace of two hours, and entirely recovered."

[To be continued in our next.]

A Proſpect of exterminating the Small-Pox; being the Hiſtory of the Variolæ Vaccinæ, or Kine-Pox, commonly called the Cow-Pox; as it has appeared in England; with an Account of a Series of Inoculations performed for the Kine-Pox, in Maſſachuſetts. By BENJAMIN WATERHOUSE, M. D. Fellow of the American Philos. Society; and Profeſſor of the Theory and Practice of Phyſic in the Univerſity of Cambridge, 8vo. pp. 40. Boſton, 1800.

We have peruſed this very judicious and accurate work with uncommon gratification. The ſame temperate and philoſophic ſpirit which characterized Dr. Jenner's publications, have been caught by Dr. W. and we have no doubt that his countrymen will conſider him as the Jenner of the weſtern world.

"In the beginning of the year 1799, I received from my friend, Dr. LETTSOM, of London, a copy of Dr. EDWARD JENNER's "*Inquiry into the cauſes and effects of the* VARIOLÆ VACCINÆ, or Cow-Pox;" a diſeaſe totally unknown in this quarter of the world. On peruſing this work, I was ſtruck with the unſpeakable advantages that might accrue to this country, and indeed to the human race at large, from the diſcovery of a mild diſtemper that would ever after ſecure the conſtitution from that terrible ſcourge, the ſmall-pox. My attention was not the leſs awakened by a previous impreſſion that the ſmall-pox came originally from the brute creation; for all that I could recollect of the hiſtory of the famous Mahomet, and his *ſucceſſor*, and of modern Arabia, conſpired to ſtrengthen the idea that the ſmall-pox came to the human race through the brute creation.

"Perceiving that this diſeaſe began to excite a ſpirit of enquiry among our literary men, I deemed it of importance to collect and examine every thing that had or might be publiſhed on the ſubject, and to acquire, from my correſpondents in England, every information reſpecting a diſtemper ſo intereſting to humanity.

"As the great queſtion which the profeſſional public were anxious to have reſolved was, *whether a perſon who had been fairly infected with the genuine* COW *or* KINE-POX, *were thereby ſecured againſt the ſmall-pox,* I bent all my enquiries to aſcertain this point.

"It would be ſuperfluous to mention every queſtion I put, and tedious to relate the different anſwers received. Suffice it for the preſent to ſay, that I made my enquiries of the phyſicians living in different

different parts of Great Britain, and of thoſe too who were the leaſt ſanguine, although moſt intereſted in the event; of men, who objected much, and believed ſlowly, yet have in the end become its moſt potent advocates. And I do now deliberately declare, that I have received a croud of evidence in confirmation of the doctrine, "that the cow, or kine-pox renders the human frame unſuſceptible of the ſmall-pox," too great to be reſiſted by any mind not perverted by prejudice. In truth, the ſubject has been traced in England, by thoſe who doubted, until conviction became too ſtrong for argument, and theoretical objections gave way to ſtubborn facts. The conſequence has been, that THIRTY THOUSAND perſons, from two weeks old and upwards, have paſſed ſafely through the diſeaſe. Dr. JENNER has been particularly noticed by the KING, who gave him permiſſion to dedicate the new edition of his book to him.

"But diſtance of ſpace operates on ſome minds like diſtance of time. People are not ſo ready to believe what happened a great while ago, or a great way off. I therefore found it neceſſary to bring the matter home to us, and to repeat in America the experiments performed on the other ſide the Atlantic. I wiſhed alſo to examine another *important fact*, of which ſome eminent phyſicians in London expreſſed ſome doubts, and which I myſelf was anxious to ſee more firmly eſtabliſhed, namely, *whether this new diſeaſe, this* COW-POX, or KINE-POX, (denominate it which you will) *be really not* CONTAGIOUS, *or catching from one perſon to another*. And I do now aſſert, that from all the experiments hitherto made public, it clearly appears, that *this ſubſtitute for the ſmall-pox cannot be communicated by any other means than by the actual* CONTACT OF MATTER; or, in other words, *is not catching from one perſon to another by effluvia, like the ſmall-pox or meaſles.* Even the COWS do not convey the diſtemper by effluvia, or when there is a fence or hedge interpoſed between them; and not, ſays Dr. JENNER, unleſs they be handled or milked by thoſe who bring the infectious matter with them.

"Having thus traced the moſt important facts reſpecting the cauſes and effects of the *kine-pox* up to their ſource in England, and having confirmed moſt of them by actual experiment in America, one experiment only remained behind to complete the buſineſs. To effect this, I wrote the following letter to Dr. ASPINWALL, phyſician to the *Small-pox Hoſpital* in the neighbourhood of Boſton.

DEAR DOCTOR, *Cambridge, Aug. 2d,* 1800.

"You have doubtleſs heard of the newly deſcribed diſorder, known in England by the name of the *cow-pox*, which ſo nearly reſembles the ſmall-pox, that it is now agreed in Great-Britain, that the former will paſs for the latter.

"I have collected every thing that has been printed, and all the information I could procure from my correſpondents, reſpecting this diſtemper, and have been ſo thoroughly convinced of its importance to humanity, that I have procured ſome of the vaccine matter;

matter, and therewith inoculated ſeven of my family. The inoculation has proceeded in ſix of them exactly as deſcribed by WOODVILLE and JENNER; but my deſire is to confirm the doctrine by having ſome of them inoculated by you.

"I can obtain variolous matter, and inoculate them privately; but I wiſh to do it in the moſt open and public way poſſible. As I have imported a new diſtemper, I conceive that the public have a right to know exactly every ſtep I take in it. I write this, therefore, to enquire whether you will, on philanthropic principles, try the experiment of inoculating ſome of my children who have already undergone the cow-pox. If you accede to my propoſal, I ſhall conſider it as an experiment in which we have co-operated for the good of our fellow-citizens, and relate it as ſuch in the pamphlet I mean to publiſh on the ſubject.

I am, &c. &c.

B. W.

Hon. WILLIAM ASPINWALL, Eſq. Brookline.

"To this letter the Dr. returned a polite anſwer, aſſuring me of his readineſs to give any aſſiſtance in his power, to aſcertain *whether the cow-pox would prevent the ſmall-pox;* obſerving, that he had at that time freſh matter that he could depend on, and deſiring me to ſend the children to the hoſpital for that purpoſe. Of the three, which I offered, the Doctor choſe to try the experiment on the boy of 12 years of age, mentioned in page 20, whom he inoculated in my preſence by two punctures, and with matter taken that moment from a patient who had it pretty full upon him. He at the ſame time, inſerted an infected thread, and then put him into the hoſpital, where was one patient with it the natural way. On the 4th day, the Dr. pronounced the *arm* to be infected. It became every hour ſorer, but in a day or two it dried off, and grew well, without producing the ſlighteſt trace of a diſeaſe; ſo that the boy was diſmiſſed from the hoſpital, and returned home the 12th day after the experiment. One fact, in ſuch caſes, is worth a thouſand arguments.

"It is proper to mention, that there are ſome circumſtances, which if not attended to critically, may bring the inoculation of this recently imported diſtemper into a temporary diſrepute. Dr. Jenner, aware of ſuch an accident, has pointed out the fallacious ſources whence a diſeaſe imitative of the *variolæ vaccinæ*, or *kine-pox*, may ariſe, with a view of preventing a ſpurious diſeaſe.

"It was juſt about the ſame time, that Dr. SIMS wrote the letter referred to in page 33; ſo that the flattering proſpect of baniſhing the ſmall-pox for ever from Great Britain, ſeemed to be obſcured for ſeveral weeks. But Dr. JENNER, and Mr. R——, a very diſtinguiſhed ſurgeon and native of the county where the cow-pox firſt appeared, undertook to examine how it happened, that a diſtemper ſo mild in Gloceſterſhire, ſhould be converted into a pretty ſevere diſeaſe in London. This matter was unravelled, and the end of it appeared to be this: The firſt ſubjects inoculated for the kine-pox, were chiefly people maintained as *poor*. They were

inoculated at the ſmall-pox hoſpitals, and ſeveral of them for both kinds, ſmall-pox and kine-pox at the ſame time, or at an interval of a day or two, by way of experiment; and it is more than probable, ſays one of my correſpondents, that a lancet infected with variolous matter, was uſed for inoculating for the kine-pox. Be that as it may, it is certain that the patients of a celebrated inoculator, had the diſeaſe with greater ſeverity than any other practitioner. In general, the patients had more fever, ſorer arms, and more puſtules in London, than in the country. Thoſe of the author's friends who have urged him to eſtabliſh an hoſpital for the kine-pox, will now ſee more clearly, the reaſons for not following their advice.—An hoſpital might poſſibly heighten a very mild diſtemper into a formidable diſeaſe.

"After this ſucceſsful inveſtigation, inoculation for the kine-pox went on with redoubled activity; inſomuch, that from the date of Dr. Sims' letter, to May following, (juſt about a year) 29,400 perſons of all ages, paſſed through the diſeaſe without a ſingle death!"

Dr. W. concludes with the following *Poſtſcript.*

"Although I am convinced that the kine-pox is a ſhorter, ſafer, and pleaſanter diſeaſe than the inoculated ſmall-pox, even when conducted in the moſt fortunate manner, yet there is ſome danger of people conceiving too lightly of it. The inoculation of between fifty and ſixty perſons of different ages and habits, has taught me, that the kine-pox requires ſome care on the part of the patient, as well as attention on that of the phyſician; and I give it as my decided opinion, that an abſtinence from animal food and from ſtimulating drinks, is as neceſſary in the inoculation of the kine as in that of the ſmall-pox. A few examples will illuſtrate what I wiſh to convey. Two young gentlemen were rendered ſomewhat uncomfortable for three or four days in conſequence of eating and drinking as uſual. One, the leaſt attentive to directions, after walking to and from Boſton, in a very hot day, had his febrile ſymptoms very much aggravated. His head ach was excruciating, and a ſlight delirium came on in the evening, with a ſtricture acroſs the region of the ſtomach, equal to what we ſometimes find in the caſual ſmall-pox. Such imprudent conduct might have deſtroyed him if inoculated for the ſmall-pox. A boy, after eating green-corn, was crammed with fruit, under the abſurd idea that ripe fruit can hurt no one, ſo that with the ſymptoms of kine-pox was joined a cholera morbus. In another boy, the mumps appeared about the 4th day, and arreſted the infection. I could add ſome other inſtances to prove that this new diſeaſe, mild and ſafe as it is, requires more of the phyſician than merely putting the matter into the arm; but as this treatiſe is addreſſed not ſo much to the phyſician, as to the common ſenſe of all, I purpoſely avoid profeſſional directions or criticiſms."

*** *We embrace this opportunity of returning our thanks to Dr. Waterhouſe, for his very polite attention to us; and of aſſuring him, that all hints and propoſitions coming from ſuch reſpectable authority will receive particular attention from us.*—Edit.

A Confcious View of Circumftances and Proceedings refpecting Vaccine Inoculation, &c. &c. 8vo. pp. 76. *Bath*, 1800.

It is impoffible for a candid mind to read this illiberal, and we may fay fcurrilous pamphlet, without feeling the moft lively indignation. We fhould not have noticed it but for the fake of announcing an anfwer to it, which is in the prefs.

MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE, OBSERVATIONS, AND HINTS.

To Dr. BRADLEY.

Dear Sir,

Having been politely favoured with a view of the accurate ftatement fent to your valuable Publication, refpecting fome fuppofed cafes of Cow-pox, which happened in the neighbourhood of town, I beg to inform you that I had previoufly feen thefe unfortunate fubjects, and fince repeated my vifit; and from infpection, and the whole hiftory of the cafes, am of opinion with thofe refpectable gentlemen who figned the ftatement, that the difeafe was not the cow-pock, but morbid ulceration, originating from the purulent matter formed under the fcab, or dried puftule of the cow-pock, with which the patients were infected.

Before I had feen the ftatement, I had made enquiries refpecting the origin of the matter from whence thefe were inoculated, and have no doubt of its having been the genuine cow-pock with which the child of my next door neighbour was inoculated; and from this my own grand-child, and the child of a refpectable furgeon of my acquaintance, were inoculated, as well as the children of feveral other families, not one of whom fuffered under any complaint requiring medical affiftance; and yet from one of thefe was this purulent matter unfortunately taken. I have therefore no reafon, from any thing connected with the cow-pock that ever came under my obfervation, to change the high opinion I entertain in favour of this new mode of obviating one of the moft fatal difeafes to which mankind are liable.

I am, refpectfully, &c.

London, Nov. 25, 1800. J. C. LETTSOM.

The two following Extracts are taken from Letters addreffed to Mr. Chamberlain, Surgeon, of this City, viz.

SIR, *Delvine, Aug.* 24, 1800.

As it is two years fince I applied to you for fetæ of cowhage, you muft have been led to imagine, that I did not find it ufeful to my poor pa ients, that I never wifhed for more; but the truth is, that I approved of it fo much, that I employed a druggift at

Edinburgh to provide it for me, and have made uſe of a very conſiderable quantity. I find the account you give of its innocence is perfectly juſt, and that where it does no good it never does any harm. It does great ſervice in fevers, even where infection and not worms is the primary cauſe of the diſeaſe; and amongſt the commonality, who live moſtly on vegetables, fevers and coughs are very frequent during lying-in, and I have four or five times given your electuary in ſuch caſes, and always with the beſt effects. In this country, delirium or derangement of the melancholy kind is a common diſeaſe, and I find that worm medicines never fail to do good; my uſual preſcription in a very bad caſe, is firſt, tartar emetic, then cowhage in much larger doſes than what you recommend."

Kingston, Jamaica, Sept. 15, 1800.

I am aſtoniſhed to hear that ſome phyſicians in England have written to their friends here of the "madneſs of our practice." I ſhall not call them mad; but I think them blameably preſumptive in writing of what they know nothing at all. For, if they are eminent, their opinions may poiſon the minds of ſuch unfortunate ſtrangers as may be taken ill, ſo as to make them object to the only treatment that has a chance of ſaving them from the moſt fatal of all diſeaſes yet known, ſcarcely the plague itſelf excepted. I will aver that a Cullen, or any other high medical character, never having ſeen the diſeaſe, would be puzzled and baffled if he purſued any other courſe. Mercury, we know, can cure many other diſeaſes without its peculiar action on the ſalivary glands; but here it will not: for I have not yet known an inſtance but one which has been cured without ſalivation; and never have ſeen or heard of one that died, when that diſcharge could be produced. In this ſolitary caſe the mercury (ſay 700 or 800 grains of cal. beſides ſeveral ounces of merc. oint. by frictions) ſeemed to act by profuſe perſpiration, as it had no other effect whatever. I have reaſon to think that it operates ſo in the cures; becauſe, when it was counteracted by bark, which was inſiſted on by a conſulting phyſician, the patient had a return of bad ſymptoms, which were baniſhed by a diſcontinuance of the bark, and a perſeverance in the uſe of mercury, until the patient got well. Bark, though an excellent medicine in proper caſes, has ſent many to the grave, whom, in all probability, mercury would have ſaved. Therefore, my friend, whenever you may have an opportunity of giving advice to adventurers coming this way, never neglect to recommend having the ſalivary glands ſlightly affected by mercury before they embark, or immediately on their arrival on the ſpot of infection. I have had ſo many inſtances of the good effects of prophylaxis, that I can recommend it with confidence. Indeed it is a duty which I, and I truſt you, think indiſpenſable to perform for the good of our fellow creatures. It is a lamentable fact to acknowledge, that notwithſtanding this only yet known remedy for this dreadful ſcourge of new comers, it fails too often after the commencement of the diſeaſe; although it has done wonders in very deſperate caſes, after late application.

To

To Dr. BRADLEY.

DEAR SIR,

At the conclusion of your last Number I observe, that Dr. Nisbet has introduced my name as a collateral support to his narrative of a case of cancer recently cured. I *once* visited the patient alluded to, and have no objection to give you MY OWN statement of what I then saw; but as I know nothing of the progressive stages of the complaint, nor of the medical treatment, which remains a profound secret, my testimony can serve no good purpose.

I remain, &c.

Great Russell Street, Bloomsbury, WILLIAM BLAIR.
November, 3, 1800.

A Sketch of the University of Cambridge, Massachusetts, founded 1630, *with some Account of its Medical School.*

I have observed in your very valuable volumes of the Medical and Physical Journal, mention made of several American medical schools, lectures, &c. while the one at Cambridge, the most celebrated in the western world, passes without much notice, although it has flourished more than a century before most of those you mentioned had an existence. Cambridge is the mother seminary of the United States, and was founded soon after the settlement of the country, by persons educated at your Oxford, and particularly your *Cambridge*; its professors came directly from these universities in the reigns of Elizabeth and James. The university library contains about 14,000 volumes, and its philosophical apparatus is by far the largest in the United States. You may see a particular account of it in the last edition of Dr. Moore's Geography.

The medical lectures, or rather the medical school, ingrafted on this university, is of no longer date than 1783, although this university, originally called *Havard College*, was founded in 1630. Medical students come from distant states, and even from Canada, to attend the medical lectures in this place. —— Nichols, Esq. member of parliament, son of Dr. Frank Nichols, and grandson of Dr. Mead, has just presented our medical school with his father's collection of anatomical preparations. Some curious representations in wax have also arrived from Italy, so that the medical branch is in a very flourishing condition.

The university of Cambridge is three miles from Boston, and is remarkable for the beauty and healthfulness of its situation. It is intimately connected with the government of the commonwealth, for the governor, the council and senate of the commonwealth, together with the clergy of Boston, and the six neighbouring towns, are, ex officio, the governors of it. The six other colleges in New England have grown out of this as branches from a trunk.

Sept. 1800. AN AMERICAN.

Any

Any thing which has a tendency to cure or even to relieve perſons afflicted with Epilepſy, is entitled to attention; the following lines on the ſubject are quoted from LALANDE. "There was lately brought to Citizen PORTAL, a young lady who was every day attacked by violent epileptic fits. They began in one of her toes; which circumſtance ſuggeſted to that able anatomiſt the idea of cutting the nerve, for the purpoſe of interrupting the communication: but he began by the application of *opium* to the nerve; and that alone proved ſufficient to effect a complete cure."

A very curious and ſcientific paper has appeared in the laſt volume of the Philoſophical Tranſactions of the Royal Society of London, by Mr. ASTLEY COOPER, ſurgeon, on the effect produced on the ſenſe of hearing, by a perforation or entire loſs of the *membrana tympani (drum* of the ear). It has generally been imagined that ſuch an accident would be attended with complete deafneſs, but ſeveral caſes here related, ſhew that the loſs of this ſenſe is but very partial, and ſometimes even ſo little as to produce but ſlight inconvenience. A perforation of this membrane is indicated when air or ſmoke can be driven from the mouth through the external ear.

Dr. GUTHRIE, of St. Peterſburg, in a letter to Profeſſor DUNCAN, of Edinburgh, mentions a curious remedy, which has performed the cure of a dropſical caſe, which was, to ſwallow daily a table-ſpoonful of common ſand. This remedy was found to purge pretty briſkly, which was followed by a relief of all the ſymptoms.

VACCINE INOCULATION.

We obſerve that in ſome large cities the Faculty have been induced to ſign a public teſtimonial of their approbation of the Vaccine Inoculation. The names of theſe Gentlemen in the Town of LEEDS, and Cities of DURHAM and CHESTER, have come to our hands, and we have great pleaſure in ſubjoining them.

IN LEEDS BY

Stanhope Baynes, M. D.
Robert Daviſon, M. D.
Benjamin Hird, M. D.
R. W. D. Thorp, M. D.
Joſhua Walker, M. D.
Obadia Brooke, Surgeon.
Thomas Chorley, Surgeon.
T. A. Coates, Surgeon.
Sam. Dickenſon, Surgeon
Wm. Dodſworth, Surgeon
William Hey, Surgeon
William Hey, jun. Surgeon
Maurice Logan, Surgeon
John Moxon, Surgeon
Benj. Muſgrave, Surgeon
Tho. Parkinſon, Surgeon
John Robinſon, Surgeon
Thomas Ruſby, Surgeon
Matthew Shirtliffe, Surgeon
John Soper, Surgeon
James Tatham, Surgeon
Thomas Teale, Surgeon

IN DURHAM BY

G. Cayley, M. D.
Potts and Clifton, Surgeons
J. James, Surgeon
W. Green, Surgeon
W. Ward, Surgeon
G. Fothergill, Surgeon
W. Ruddock, Surgeon
—— Nelſon, Surgeon

In

In Chester by

William Currie, M. D.	P. Wilkinfon, Surgeon
William Houghton, M. D.	C. Tomlinfon, Surgeon
W. M. Thackeray, M. D.	Geo. N. Hill, Surgeon
Jas. Arden, M. D.	John Harrifon, Surgeon
D. Orred, Surgeon	J. Okell, Surgeon
G. Rowlands, Surgeon	W. Connah, Surgeon
S. Freeman, Surgeon	Chrift. Buck, Surgeon
Geo. Harrifon, Surgeon	J. M. Asfheton, Surgeon

Meetings of the Faculty have alfo been held at *York*, *Hull*, *Birmingham*, and fome other places, and a fimilar refolution adopted.

Notice refpecting a new Pharmacopœia, by Mr. Reece, Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in London, and late domeftic Surgeon and Apothecary to the General Infirmary at Hereford.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

Gentlemen,

THE prefent melancholy declining ftate of almoft every charitable public inftitution for the relief of the difeafed poor in this kingdom, through the unparalleled preffure of the times, has induced me to offer to the phyficians and furgeons of thofe inftitutions, a collection of cheap officinal and extemporaneous Recipes, entitled, "The Medical and Chirurgical Pharmacopoeia for the Ufe of Hospitals, &c." which, through the medium of your very valuable Publication, I beg leave to recommend to the notice of the medical tribe. Thefe medicines, if adopted, will reduce the expence of the Difpenfary in the immenfe proportion of eighty per cent. and experience warrants me in afferting them to be equal in efficacy to thofe of the moft expenfive clafs.

Although I have more particularly publifhed this work for the ufe of hofpitals, &c. I flatter myfelf it will be found of equal utility in private practice, more efpecially to thofe gentlemen who exercife, at very inadequate falaries, the offices of Surgeons and Apothecaries to parifhes; the prefent expenfive formulæ preventing their doing juftice to the unfortunate objects labouring under the complicated evils of poverty and difeafe.

It was my intention to have annexed cafes of the fuccefs of each particular medicine, which I relinquifh from the great augmentation it would be to the fize and confequent price of the book; but I beg to affure the Faculty, that they have feverally undergone the teft of experience with the moft flattering effect.

I am, &c. &c.

London, Nov. 13, 1800. RICHARD REECE.

Mr. Stephen Hammick, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, London, and Affiftant Surgeon to the Royal Hofpital, Plymouth, propofes, on Monday the 5th of January, commencing a Courfe of Lectures on the Principles, Practice and Operations of Surgery. Particulars known at his houfe, Parade, Plymouth.

Dr.

Dr. HARRINGTON has in the preſs, and will ſpeedily publiſh, ſome Experiments and Obſervations on VOLTA's Galvanic Pile, clearly elucidating all the phenomena.

The *Medical and Physical Journal* continues to be tranſlated into German, and re-publiſhed at Leipſic, by the bookſeller Sommer. We are informed the Tranſlator is Profeſſor KUHN of Leipſic.

NEW MEDICAL PUBLICATIONS IN NOVEMBER.

A Compendium of the Anatomy of the Human Body, illuſtrated by nearly 700 Figures, copied from the moſt celebrated Authors, and from Nature, by ANDREW FYFFE, 3 vol. 4to. 5l. 5s. Longman and Rees.

Diſſertations on Inflammation. 1. On the Laws of Animal Economy; 2. On the Hiſtory, Cauſes, Conſequences, and Cure of Simple Inflammation; 3. On the Phagedenic, and ſome other Species of Inflammation; 4. On the Sporigoid Inflammation; 5. On Scrophulous Inflammation; 6. On the Cancerous Inflammation. By JOHN BURNS, Surgeon, Glaſgow, 2 vol. 8vo. 14s. boards. Longman and Rees.

An Eſſay on Phlegmatia Dolens, including an Account of the Symptoms, Cauſes, and Cure of Peritonitis Puerperalis, and Conjunctiva, &c. &c. by JOHN HULL, M. D. 8vo. 6s. 6d. boards. Bickerſtaff.

To CORRESPONDENTS.

The Editors consider themselves under much obligation to I. G. *for his very sensible remarks. He may have observed that the last Index was more full than the two former ones; an arrangement has however been made, by means of which the future Indices will in all respects be full and satisfactory. The number of pages in the books reviewed shall be added. The succession of papers on the same subject will always be attended to, provided all which appear, are in the possession of the Editors when the Number of the Journal is put to press. The other observations of* I. G. *will not be neglected*; *and the Editors, in conclussion, wish him to make his promised communications; the value of which they anticipate by that of his present Letter.*

Communications are received from Dr. PEARSON *and Mr.* RING; *and several Hints and Improvements, which we are obliged to postpone at present.*

ADDENDA.

To Mr. Veitch's Caſe, p. 513, towards the concluſion of the caſe, and after the words, preſervation of the ſcalp, add, "This man was perfectly cured within ſix weeks, and diſcharged in as full poſſeſſion (ſetting aſide the local deprivation of ſkull) of his mental and bodily powers as he had been at any time prior to the date of the accident.

"*P.S.* Cow-pox Inoculation is extending itſelf in the Navy, and is much encouraged by the Lords of the Admiralty."

END OF VOL. IV.

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